




THE INDEPENDENT


No 3,790

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 1998

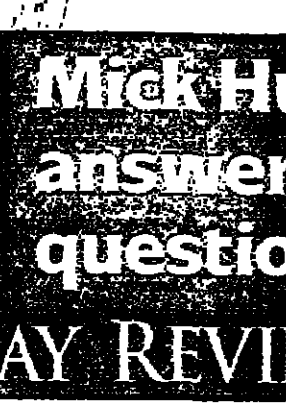
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FRONT

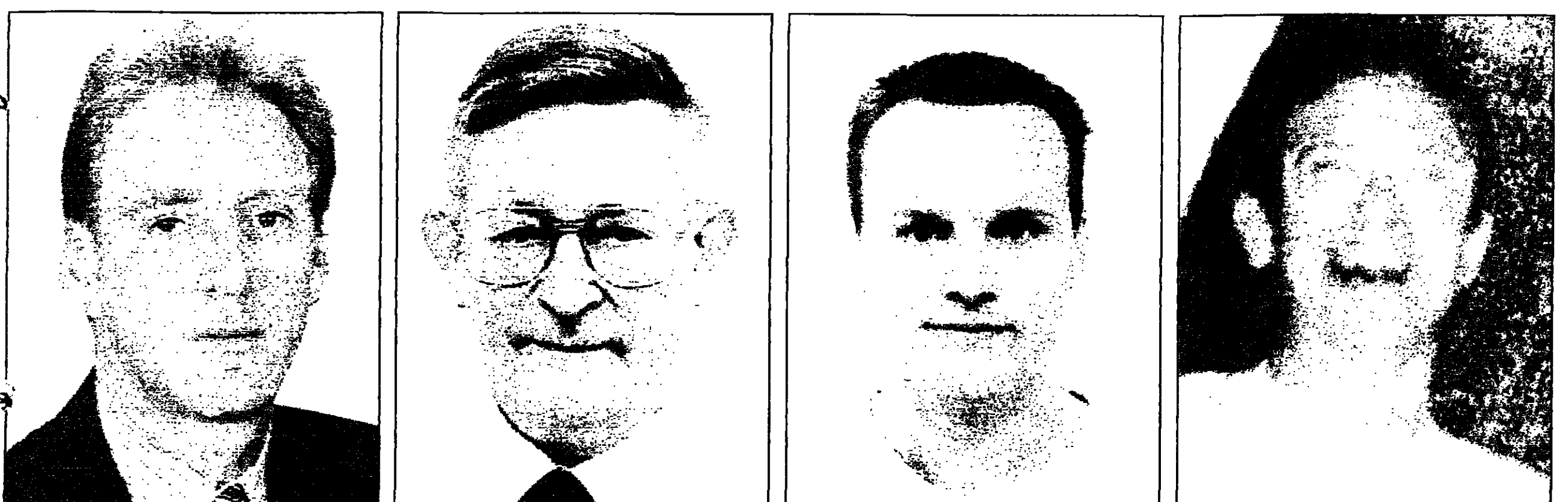


Mick Hucknall answers your questions
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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

Bungled rescue may have led to beheading of British hostages



The kidnapped engineers who are believed to have been killed in Chechnya: Rudolf Petschi (left), from Devon, Stanley Shaw, a Surrey-based New Zealander, Darren Hickey, from Surrey, and Peter Kennedy, from Hereford

THE DECAPITATED remains of four men, almost certainly the communication engineers kidnapped two months ago in Chechnya, were discovered yesterday amid reports that local security forces had bungled a rescue attempt just hours earlier.

British officials in Moscow were last night trying to arrange for a positive identification of the remains, discovered early yesterday morning on a windswept roadside in a village on Chechnya's eastern border. The four men were kidnapped in the capital city, Grozny, while working in the Russian former Soviet republic, against strong advice from the Foreign Office.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, pledged that he would do everything he could to find out what had happened. "We will work hard to find the truth," he said. "We need to know what happened and what is being done to bring to justice those who committed such repugnant murders."

However, *The Independent* has learnt that in recent months the Foreign Office (FCO) had, with the approval of the hostages' families, handed over day-to-day running of efforts to secure the release of the men to Granger Telecom, the company employing three of the engineers. It, in turn, had

INSIDE

Two months of silence from the land of kidnappings and Kalashnikovs
Countdown to the killings *page 3*

"strongly advises against" travelling to the Chechnya. The chief executive of Granger, Raymond Verth, said it was a "risk worth taking" for a deal worth a reported £100m.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Verth said: "We are devastated to hear the news of the deaths of the four hostages. Their murder is an appalling and barbaric act... We were especially shocked by this horrific news as we were making every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were alive as recently as last week."

Attention turned last night to reports that the men may have been killed after a bungled rescue attempt by Chechen security forces. Mr Verth said they

were not aware in advance of any rescue attempt, although reports from Grozny on Monday claimed that the security forces knew where the hostages were.

An official source in Grozny said: "The whole place is awash with rumours at the moment. No one knows why the men were executed. It is certainly a new development because hostage-takers here have not done this before. There are reports that the security forces had tried to rescue the men but... no one is saying anything."

A further report from Grozny last night suggested that one kidnapper had been captured. Official sources said Britain had not been involved in a rescue attempt.

In Britain, as news of the discovery emerged, the families of the victims were said to be numb with grief. Eamonn Hickey, father of Mr Hickey, reacted to early unconfirmed reports that four bodies had been found by saying he was "hoping and praying" that they turned out to be baseless rumour.

As more details emerged a family friend, speaking at the pub run by the Hickeys in Thames Ditton, Surrey, said: "They are unable to say anything. Like everyone else involved they are in a state of deep shock."

Yesterday, as officials in Chechnya promised to name the guilty men later today, the President, Aslan Maskhadov, blamed "foreign special forces" and their Chechen agents for carrying out the killings. He said the aim was to provoke more violence and hinder his attempts to build relations abroad.

As the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, called for tougher security, speculation also turned to the future of a country not recognised by the rest of the world but clearly beyond the control of Russia.

The kidnap of the four men came just two weeks after British aid workers Jon James, 40, and Camilla Carr, 38, were released after being held hostage in Chechnya for 18 months. Around 100 people are believed to be held in the country, most of them Russian servicemen.

'I saw the heads lined up on a piece of cloth'

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

They were found by an unnamed motorist, less than 50 miles from the capital city, Grozny, and it was immediately clear who they were.

Russian Musayev, a reporter for the Associated Press who also witnessed the ghoulish

scene, said: "I saw the heads neatly lined up beside the highway. They were lined up on a piece of cloth in plain view of passers by."

"Two of the heads had wounds to the temple, possibly gunshot wounds," he said.

Chechen fighters prevented journalists from filming the scene on the deserted road between barren wintry fields near the village of Doydenko.

"It appeared that somebody had brought them and dropped them by the roadside for all to see," the motorist told a correspondent for Russia's independent NTV channel.

Within an hour of the find, Umar Makhauri, who had been one of the engineers' body-

guards, came to the roadside and recognised the faces of the dead men.

He was certain that they were Peter Kennedy, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shaw.

Last night the victims' heads were said to have been taken to Grozny morgue.

No bodies were found by the roadside, although the Chechen leader, Aslan Maskhadov, said later that the corpses had been found elsewhere. The testimony of the unnamed driver was relayed by an NTV correspondent, said Tsar-nayev, who said that Chechen gunmen then closed the roads in the area, and people were too afraid to approach.

Schroder and Chirac pile the pressure on Blair

BY STEPHEN CASTLE, IMRE KARACS AND ANDREW GRICE

The letter raised the prospect of a direct confrontation between Mr Blair and European heads of government, after recent friction over tax harmonisation and suggestions that individual member states should lose their veto over tax policy.

That ambition remained alive in last night's letter from Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and Jacques Chirac, the French President, who called for bold new think-

ing about EU reform. They said an "extension of decisions taken by qualified majority is of vital importance."

Although France and Germany avoided the term "tax harmonisation", the joint letter called for a "programme in the area of social and tax policies, aimed especially at avoiding unfair tax practices and wage dumping."

Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, called yesterday for "co-ordination" of tax policies throughout the EU. In a speech to a Social Democratic Party rally in Saar-

Robinson is 'ready to go'

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

could not survive. Some sources suggested the minister's performance at the Treasury had been affected by publicity about his business interests.

A further report yesterday suggested Mr Robinson had been stripped of responsibilities on tax because of adverse publicity about his £12m offshore trust. He was forced to apologise to the House of Commons last month for failing to register company directorships.

Troubles take toll, *page 2*

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'My husband died two years ago.
Will I ever get used to being alone?'

YOUR DILEMMAS. VIRGINIA IRONSIDE'S ADVICE. EVERY THURSDAY

FILM: ANTHONY
QUINN REVIEWS
'ZORRO' AND THE
WEEK'S OTHER
NEW RELEASES
PLUS LAW



THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCILROY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Troubles take toll on the 'missing minister'

THE MOOD was convivial as Geoffrey Robinson tucked into a hearty full English breakfast with business leaders yesterday. But a rueful note crept into the Paymaster General's voice when the questions started.

Where would he advise a youngster to make a career - business or politics? "Business," the minister replied. "Particularly in the light of the last year."

Listening to the entrepreneur Alan Sugar's suggestions on how young people could follow in his footsteps, Mr Robinson might have been forgiven for wondering why he went into politics.

The last year has not been an easy one for the Paymaster General, to put it mildly. First he was criticised for his interest in a £12 million offshore trust, then for not registering directorships and then again for his links with the disgraced tycoon Robert Maxwell.

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

Opposition MPs claimed Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, seemed reluctant to give unqualified support to his fellow minister when he appeared before a Commons committee yesterday.

Mr Cunningham was pressed hard by members of the Public Administration Committee before giving Mr Robinson his backing.

"Friends" have begun to hint that the Paymaster General is ready to throw in the towel. Unnamed fellow ministers told newspapers at the weekend that he would cite health problems as his reason for resignation.

The Paymaster General went into hospital last summer for an abdominal operation which was said at the time to be routine.

Yesterday, rumours were

circulating at Westminster that the minister's illness might be more serious than had been suggested.

There were also claims that Mr Robinson's performance had been affected by bad publicity.

One source said Treasury officials had been unhappy about the way the minister handled the launch of new Individual Savings Accounts, which was accompanied by criticism of a £50,000 limit on the accounts.

"He was told to extract the digit and get on with it in July last year. But months later it was still in kit form. He had been very distracted by all this fuss," the source said.

The Conservatives have dubbed Mr Robinson "The Missing Minister," detailing six Treasury events in the House of Commons since October in which he has never spoken.

On the one occasion on which he spoke, on November

5, he answered just one question on productivity.

The opposition party says Mr Robinson did not even appear on the front bench for a debate on ISA regulations on November 10.

By contrast, his Treasury colleague Patricia Hewitt appeared four times in 24 hours, in the debate on ISAs, a standing committee on the EU budget, a debate on road haulage industry taxation and an order on insurance contracting-out.

Last night the Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, tabled a Parliamentary question asking for details of Mr Robinson's recent public engagements.

A Treasury spokeswoman said that although he had not made any speeches in the past week, neither had the Financial Secretary, Dawn Primarolo.

Last Monday, Mr Robinson visited Cambridge to talk about

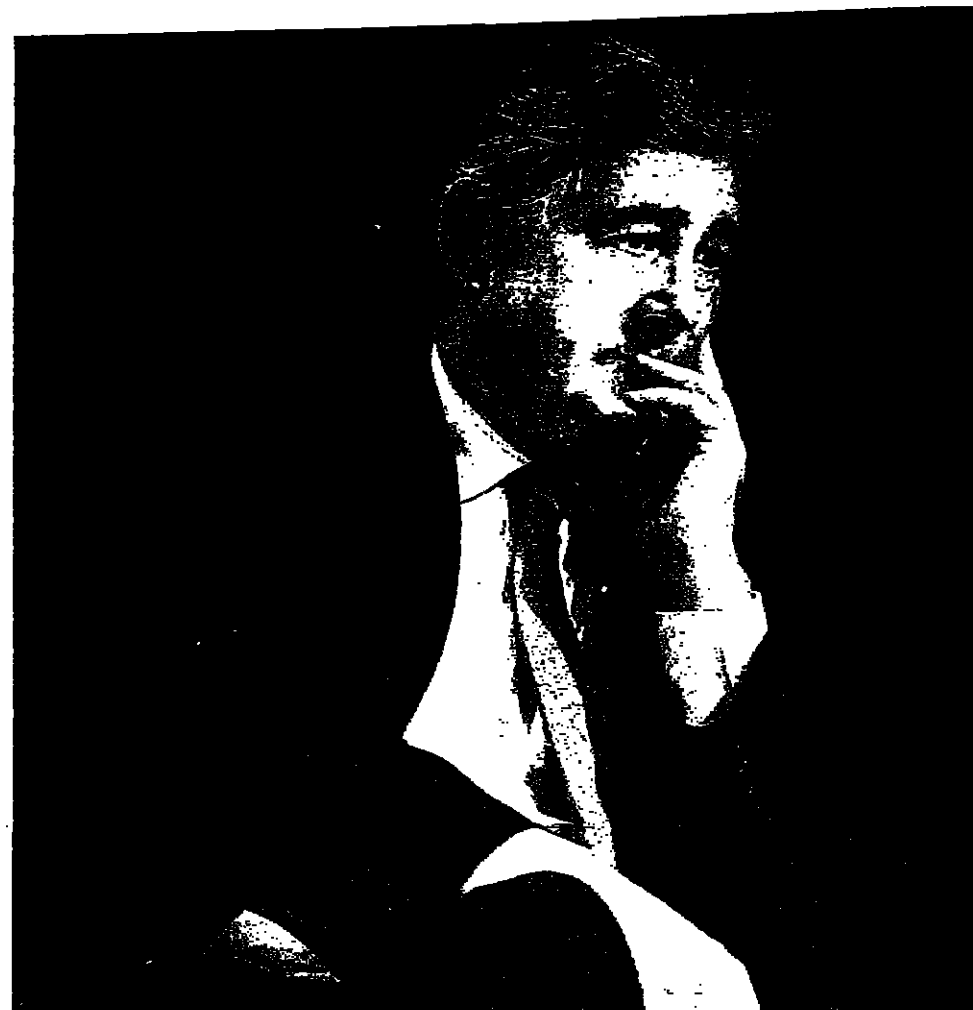
productivity and returned to his office for meetings. On Tuesday,

he appeared in the House of Commons for the Queen's Speech debate on the economy but did not speak. On Wednesday, he was at the Treasury and on Thursday he judged a schools' painting competition in Coventry. On Friday too, he was in his constituency.

On Monday this week, Mr Robinson was back in Cambridge again for another meeting on productivity, accompanied by Mr Sugar. However, journalists' probing was not welcomed.

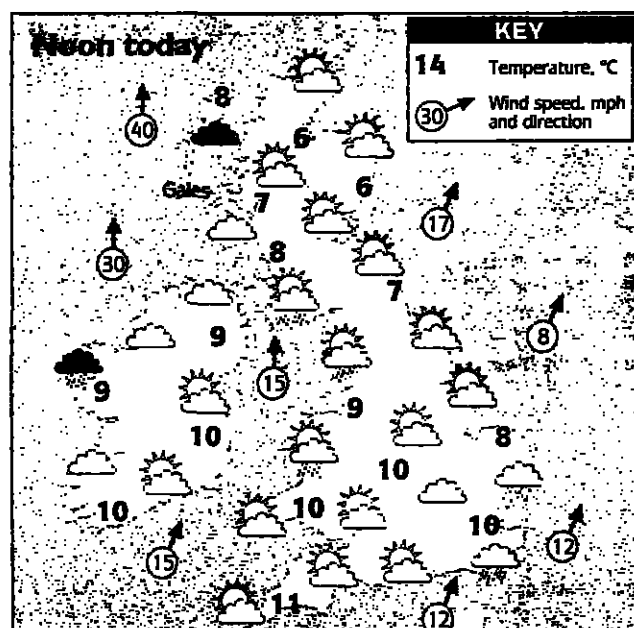
The Business Editor of the Cambridge Evening News, Jenny Chapman, said not a word was uttered about Mr Robinson's troubles.

"I was going to ask whether he was feeling better," she said. "But as soon as I started to introduce the topic they said I couldn't ask him any questions."



Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson listens to questions during the launch of the "You Can Do It" tour in London

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST
General situation: Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers this morning, but it will turn increasingly overcast and windy this afternoon with rain threatening the extreme west. Eastern Scotland will be dry and bright after a cold start. England and Wales will start rather cloudy with showers in the east and south-eastern areas. However, drier and brighter weather will spread from the west, leaving most places with reasonable sunny spells this afternoon, although coastal showers are possible in Wales and north-west England.

Case 5 & SE England, London, E Anglia: A cloudy morning with showers rain slowly moving away eastwards. This afternoon should be brighter with sunny spells developing. A light to moderate south-west wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

Midlands, Cam N & NE England, E Anglia: Any early showers will clear to leave a mix of cloud and sunny spells. A light and variable wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Channel Is, SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Early mist will lift to leave some sunny spells and only isolated showers. A light southerly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

N Ireland, Glasgow, SW Scotland: Mostly dry with sunny spells and isolated showers, but clouding over this afternoon as the southerly wind strengthens. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

NW Scotland, N Wales: Sunny intervals and isolated showers at first, but turning dull with rain approaching by evening. A strong southerly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Wales: Any early fog and local ground frost will lift to leave a mostly dry day with sunny intervals and only isolated showers. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).

OUTLOOK
Most places will have a spell of rain tomorrow, but western regions will turn drier and brighter. Friday will start fine but more wet and windy weather will sweep in from west during the day. It will stay changeable over the weekend.

TRAVEL
London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortune Green. Major works at Finchley Rd Gyratory. Until 31 December. Cambridge: A1 between Alconbury and Hadden. Construction, lane closures and contraflow. Until 31 December. Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 18th January 1999. A4 Roadworks: Call 0396 404777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES
Warmest: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly 13C (55F)
Coldest (day): Deal, Kent 6C (43F)
Wettest: Eddisbury, Ch. 0.63in
Sunniest: Eddisbury, Ch. 6.1hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday

	Sea	Rain	Max
	hrs	in	°C
Belfast	3.58pm	0.834in	8.34
Birmingham	3.54pm	0.807in	8.07
Bristol	4.02pm	0.804in	8.04
Glasgow	3.44pm	0.836in	8.36
London	3.52pm	0.755in	7.55
Manchester	3.50pm	0.814in	8.14
Newcastle	3.39pm	0.819in	8.19

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Auramouth	10.57	11.7	11.26	11.1
Cork	9.28	4.3	9.52	4.0
Dunport	9.33	5.0	10.06	4.6
Dover	2.30	6.3	2.37	6.0
Don Laughaire	3.31	3.8	3.49	4.0
Falmouth	9.04	4.8	9.37	4.4
Glasgow	4.19	3.3	4.12	3.7
Harwich	3.18	3.8	3.48	3.6
Holyhead	2.08	5.0	2.24	5.2
Hull (Albert Dr)	10.12	7.8	10.21	8.0
Leeds	10.24	5.8	10.24	5.9
Leith	6.37	5.1	6.59	5.0
Liverpool	2.50	8.5	3.10	8.6
Milford Haven	10.03	6.2	10.32	5.8
Newquay	8.59	6.3	9.28	5.8
Portsmouth	10.22	1.9	10.58	1.6
Portsmouth	8.07	4.4	8.12	4.2
Portland	10.22	1.9	10.58	1.6
Scarborough	3.09	5.3	3.15	5.3
Wick	3.09	3.1	3.19	3.3

	NO ₂	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
SE England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
NE England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

	Sun	Moon
Rises	07:54	22:42
Sets	15:52	12:06
Next quarter	12:06	12:06
Next full moon	12:06	12:06

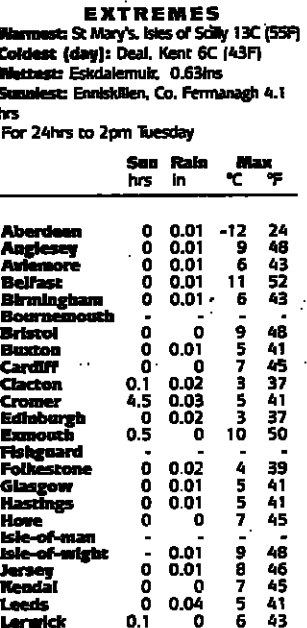
	24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Monday
Information by FA Weather Centre	

	COME RAIN OR SHINE...
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Auckland	13:55
Bahia	13:55
Bangkok	13:55
Batavia	13:55
Bombay	13:55
Buenos Aires	13:55
Calcutta	13:55
Canton	13:55
Cebu	13:55
Colon	13:55
Hankow	13:55
Hong Kong	13:55
Kobe	13:55
London	13:55
Lyons	13:55
Manila	13:55
Medan	13:55
Osaka	13:55
Peking	13:55
Rangoon	13:55
San Francisco	13:55
Singapore	13:55
Sourabaya	13:55
Tientsin	13:55
Yokohama	13:55

THE WORLD



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY
KEY: 1024-1024.5 warm front, 994 cold front, 1000-1000.5 occluded front

Low F will become slow moving with High I stationary.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY
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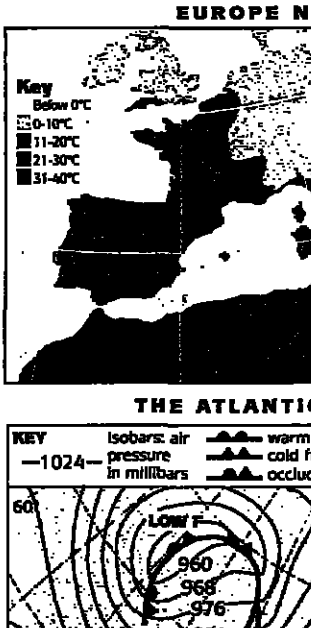
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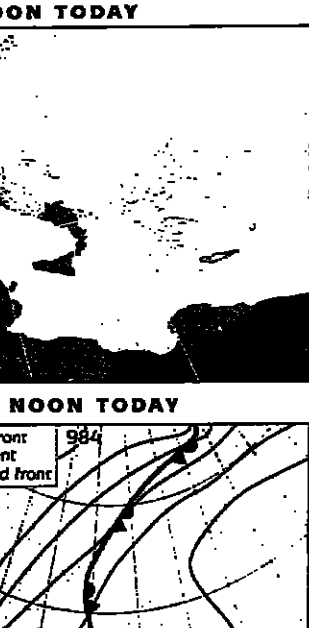
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Price shown is for Riva Zoom 75w outfit

Only from the mind of Minolta.

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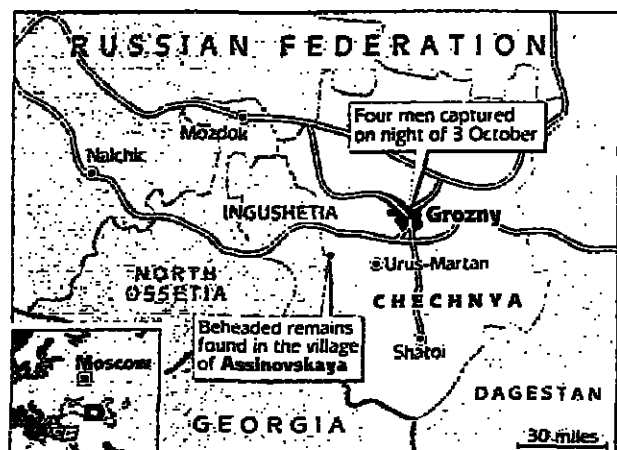
Only from the mind of Minolta.

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Only from the mind of Minolta.

Two months of silence from land of kidnapping, chaos and Kalashnikovs



AT 11.39am local time the news broke at the British Embassy on Sofitskaya Naberezhnaya in central Moscow.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

The report, from the Reuters news agency, was as stark as it was lacking in detail: three bodies had been found in Chechnya, 40 miles from the capital Grozny, and it was believed they were those of the British hostages.

Within moments, the report, and others that corrected the number of bodies to four, were passed directly to the ambassador Sir Andrew Wood, who was working in his office.

Staff in the embassy, sited opposite the Kremlin, frantically tried to verify the reports. "We take all the reports we get seriously. Of course there had been many reports and rumours and the most important thing was to try and establish some facts," said an embassy source.

"We started getting on to our contacts to find out what we could."

The tragedy that emerged yesterday started two months earlier in Lermontov Street, a nondescript thoroughfare in central Grozny, capital of the lawless Muslim republic of Chechnya.

At around 4am on Sunday 4 October around 20 men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles stormed a small building.

Grozny is one of the most dangerous places in the world, but the three Britons and one New Zealander staying there setting up telecommunication links should have been able to sleep safely that Sunday morning, protected as they were by six specially hired bodyguards.

But only one of the hired guns fought back, injuring one of the kidnappers. The sound of what was obviously a gun battle was ignored by the Chechen security forces whose headquarters were only 500 yards away.

The Britons, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Peter Kennedy and the New Zealander Stanley Shaw apparently knew the risks of working in Chechnya.

Kidnapping for ransom, brutal massacres and beheadings used to be common all over medieval Europe. In the mountainous Caucasus region of Chechnya, where banditry is the rule rather than the exception, hostage taking and murder is still a way of life.

The Foreign Office considers it too dangerous to station any staff there. Since the beginning of this year alone, 176 people, many of them ethnic Russians, have been kidnapped in the region.

The Chechens, a Muslim nation whose forefathers abductured their Russian conquerors in the 19th century, have used kidnapping to punish those they perceived as invaders in the recent war for independence.

Often the Chechen kidnappers are common criminals. On Man in the Mask, a Russian television show that allows guests to hide their faces while speaking on sensitive subjects, a "middle-man" recently described an elaborate racket whereby the Russian mafia pays ransoms to Chechen kidnappers, splits the profits and keeps the business going.

Although much human misery was involved, the trade would continue, he said, because "that's market economics for you and this is a major market".

Raymond Verth, chief executive of Granger Telecom, the firm for which three of the men worked, said they had volunteered to go.

"We undertook the contract with that knowledge [about the lack of security] and considered the risks were worth the effort," he said.

At stake was a long-term deal worth a reported £190m - a massive amount for the company, based in Weybridge, Surrey. Contrary to some reports that they were receiving massive "danger money" payments, the four men were not making a fortune.

Mr Hickey, 26, had been to



Chechen guerrillas posing with a wolf - symbol of liberty and independence - at the gates of the presidential palace in Grozny, Chechnya

Chechnya several times a year and was earning between £20,000 and £25,000.

Mr Kennedy, a self-employed engineer employed by British Telecom, was on a 12-day contract.

Immediately after their kidnapping there was silence; there were no demands from the kidnappers, and little emerged from the Foreign Office or from the Chechen authorities.

The four engineers must have kept up their spirits with the thought that only a few weeks earlier, the British aid workers, Camilla Carr and Jon James, were released after 14 months in captivity. "We would just tell the families to keep praying," said Alexandra Little, Ms Carr's sister-in-law.

Boris Berezovsky, the Russian media tycoon and politician responsible for relations with former Soviet republics, provided an aircraft to fly the two aid workers from Chechnya to Moscow.

But things were moving quickly behind the scenes. Within 24 hours the Foreign Office had called a meeting of officials from various Whitehall departments and other interested bodies, including the foreign intelligence service MI6 and the FO's specialist hostage unit.

The mood at the meeting, held the day after the kidnapping at the Foreign Office headquarters, in King Charles

Street, London, had been workmanlike. It was the same later that day when officials met representatives from Granger and British Telecom and the men's relatives.

The FO was doing what it could, the families were told, but the British Government did not give in to blackmail. No ransom would be paid, should a demand be made.

To an extent, the FO was hampered by the status of Chechnya, a breakaway republic of Russia whose independence Britain does not recognise and where it has no staff.

In the first few days, the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Andrew Wood, was relying on brief faxes from the international monitoring group, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), one of the few Western organisations with staff still in Grozny.

But it emerged yesterday that some sort of negotiations were going on. With the agreement of the hostages' families, Granger Telecom took over day-to-day control of moves to try to secure the release of the men.

The Independent has learnt that to help them in their goal the company employed Control Risks, a firm specialising in providing security for businesses working in some of the most

dangerous places in the world. The Foreign Office was aware that Granger was working with Control Risks.

Initially, it seemed progress had been made. In a statement issued yesterday, Raymond Verth said: "We were making every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were alive as recently as last week."

The Chechen authorities also claimed they were doing what they could and were questioning the injured kidnapper who was being treated at a hospital at Urus Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny.

Exactly where the hostages were held is not known. Ms

Carr and Mr Jones said they were moved dozens of times before they were finally released, a tactic designed to avoid detection by the security forces. But the security forces may have been closing in.

There were reports from Grozny on Monday suggesting the forces knew where the kidnappers were. Indeed, there was speculation last night that the Chechens had launched a rescue attempt that went dramatically wrong.

"We have heard these reports but there is no collateral to back them up," said a British source in Moscow last night. "There is certainly no evidence that Britain was involved."

British advice to the Chechens would have been to act with great caution and to

steer away from an armed response. Officials were only too aware of the problems of trying to control the Chechen security forces who were supposed to be helping.

Mr Kennedy's local MP, Paul Keetch, yesterday said that any such rescue attempt would have been "crazy".

If there was an attempt at a rescue, it certainly appears it did backfire.

Granger Telecom remain convinced that it was making progress in securing the captives' release.

As the British Embassy in Moscow was last night still trying to co-ordinate a positive identification of the remains of the men, the greatest tragedy may yet be that the men could soon have been coming home.

COUNTDOWN TO KILLINGS

20 September
British aid workers Camilla Carr and Jon James fly home after being held in Chechnya for 14 months.

4 October
The four victims are taken. Kidnappers and at least one of the Britons' bodyguards is injured in a gun battle.

5 October
Roy Verth, chief executive of the men's company, says he and his staff were aware of the dangers in Chechnya and took precautions. But he "considered the risks were worth the effort of the contract" to install a cellular radio-telephone system.

14 October
Visiting Poland, Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov tells the press he believes the hostages are alive and that he hopes they will soon be released.

16 October
Ruslan Aushev, President of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, says the hostages lives are not at risk, and promises to do all he can to free them.

20 October
Some 14 Russian soldiers and a Turkish businessman held hostage in Chechnya are set free.

25 October
The Chechen government announces it is about to launch a major offensive against kidnappers. On the day this offensive is due to be launched, a bomb detonates outside the anti-kidnapping unit's Grozny HQ. Its chief, Shaid Bargishev, 27, is fatally injured.

13 November
President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya is released six months after being taken hostage there.

8 December
Chechen authorities say they have found the heads of the three Britons and one New Zealander.

'I always knew, but having it confirmed is devastating'

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

FOR NINE weeks, the near relatives of the four dead men had kept alive their hopes that somehow a safe return for the hostages might be possible. But early yesterday came the first intimations that, instead, their darkest fears were about to be realised.

Foreign Office officials prepared them for bad news early in the day. Later they confirmed that it was almost certain their loved ones had died.

Deborah Hickey, sister of 26-year-old Darren Hickey, said: "We are so shocked. I knew it all along but to have it confirmed is devastating. God knows what we are going to do now."

Speaking outside the pub in Thames Ditton, Surrey, run by her parents, Eamonn and Moira, she said: "We never



Johann Petschi, father of dead Rudolf

thought for a minute that he would be killed. We were told that it would be OK but after today I won't believe anything anymore. My mum and dad are completely devastated."

The wife and father of Rudolf Petschi were away from their homes in Devon, and were

believed to be being comforted by friends and relatives yesterday. Mr Petschi's father, Johann, a retired quarry worker, was widowed earlier this year.

Rudi Petschi, 42, a former Royal Signals soldier, had moved into a new house in Cullompton with his wife, Louisa, shortly before he flew to Chechnya. A fluent Russian speaker, he was contracted by Granger Telecom to act as an interpreter.

Les Boyland, who became friends with Mr Petschi during an 85-mile tandem bicycle ride around Devon to raise money for charity, said: "I was looking for someone to help me raise money and he agreed."

"At the time, he was unemployed and looking for work - I think he must have taken that job in Chechnya shortly afterwards. He was a really nice and

generous bloke and always very polite."

"I rang Louisa after I heard of the abduction to wish her well and at that stage she was still hopeful. She said she was looking forward to him being released and was planning a mega party to welcome him home."

Stan Shaw's wife, Lily, and their four-year-old daughter had also left their family home in New Haw, Surrey, yesterday. Yellow ribbons had been tied around the bungalow and to trees on the main road outside. Mr Shaw, aged 58, was a New Zealander.

The fourth victim, Peter Kennedy, 46, of Hereford, had been employed as an independent contractor by British Telecom to test a satellite telephone link from Chechnya. He was separated from his wife.

BRITISH HOSTAGES KILLED ABROAD

Keith Mangan and Paul Wells
Kashmir, India, 1998: Muslim separatists responsible for the 1995 kidnapping of Mr Mangan and Mr Wells claim that they were executed in December of that year following pressure from the US government for their release, although the original kidnappers are all reported

to have been killed in clashes with the Indian army.

Christopher Howes
Cambodia, March 1996: Khmer Rouge executed the mine-clearing expert despite payment (against the advice of the British government) of a £75,000 ransom by his employers, the Mines Advisory Group charity.

Mark Slater
Cambodia, September 1994: Khmer Rouge responsible for the death of Mr Slater. Negotiations over a £33,000 ransom broke down, and he was killed after his captors made political demands.

Dominic Chappell and Tina Dominy
Cambodia, June 1994: Mr

Chappell and Ms Dominy were executed by the Khmer Rouge after a ransom demand.

Peter Kessler
Colombia, October 1992: Kidnapped by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the businessman was killed during a Colombian army rescue attempt

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Cars: Prescott unveils plans to charge urban motorists, but loses battle to spend revenue exclusively on public transport

City drivers face tolls 'in 15 months'

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, has lost his battle with the Chancellor of the Exchequer over ploughing the money raised from charges on drivers back into public transport, it was claimed yesterday.

Not all the money raised by charging motorists to drive into urban centres will be used for local public transport schemes. The consultation document, published yesterday, revealed that some of the money raised would be returned to the Treasury and after 10 years the cash can be used for non-transport schemes.

The Government's plans call for a charge on driving into urban centres, parking at work and using trunk roads and motorways. Mr Prescott hailed the schemes as a "radical" approach and said the Govern-

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

ment deserved credit for the "unique" decision to allow all the money raised to be used for transport schemes - an idea known as hypothecation.

He said charging systems could be in place within 15 months and that £1bn could be raised annually.

"It's a ground-breaking financial agreement to give local authorities the means to tackle local traffic problems."

"Local authorities in approved pilot schemes will be able to keep all of the money raised to spend on worthwhile local transport improvements - for at least 10 years."

But the consultation document, called *Breaking the Logjam*, said primary legislation

would include powers to require a "proportion of the revenue to be paid to central Government". The document also made clear that the legislation would "not restrict expenditure entirely to transport-related matters".

Both Mr Prescott and John Reid, the Transport Minister, said councils would retain 100 per cent of the revenue for at least 10 years, and that all the money would go into transport schemes. Dr Reid said the reference to expenditure on non-transport matters related to fresh legislation after 10 years.

The Conservatives said Mr Prescott had failed to deliver on his promises. Tory transport spokesman, Bernard Jenkin, said: "Mr Prescott has constantly claimed to have won the battle with the Treasury. How-

ever the document gives the lie to his claims."

Unveiling the details of the document, Mr Prescott said the proposed charging regime was not compulsory.

The Government's view is that urban road-users should either be charged to enter a designated area or for keeping or driving a vehicle within a certain area. The plan calls for parking at offices, factories and warehouses to be charged but rules out charging for non-workplace parking such as at shopping centres.

The Freight Transport Association called on the Government to exclude lorries delivering to town centres. A spokesman said:

"You cannot deliver 10 tons of groceries using a basket on the front of a bike."



Eco-warriors protesting against the building of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road being removed from their roof-top camp by bailiffs yesterday
Mike Sharp

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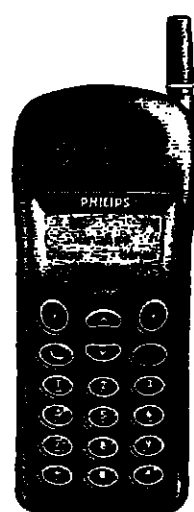
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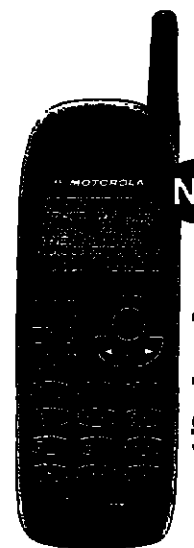
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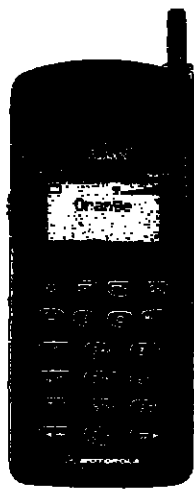
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MPs attack car industry overcharging

BRITISH MOTORISTS are paying too much for their cars compared with their European counterparts, according to a powerful cross-party committee of MPs.

In a hard-hitting report, the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry raised the idea of imprisoning the heads of car manufacturers found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour "as a mark of public anger".

The MPs called on the Government to end the current exemption from European competition rules that allow car manufacturers to set up exclusive relationships with franchised dealers.

They said the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), which is already looking at claims that the car industry operates a cartel, should investigate whether the huge price differences between Britain and the rest of the EU were a sign of anti-competitive behaviour.

They also found:

- The car market would be more competitive if there was less power in the hands of the manufacturers.
- UK car importers may have distorted competition by not lowering prices in line with currency movements.
- British consumers suffer

BY PHILIP THORNTON

poor quality garage servicing.

■ Second-hand car prices are too high.

■ Existing powers of competition regulators are "feeble".

The report said: "The current price differentials between the UK and other EU countries are far beyond those formally regarded by the European Commission as acceptable." It added that existing powers for the director-general of fair trading to levy a fine of 10 per cent of turnover for anti-competitive behaviour were an insufficient deterrent. "If there is found to have been grossly anti-competitive behaviour... it is our view that due consideration will have to be given as to whether criminal penalties should be available as a deterrent to such behaviour in future, and a mark of the weight of public anger," the MPs said.

They pointed to existing powers to impose prison sentences for those who destroy or falsify evidence to the OFT, saying this was a "measure if the seriousness with which Parliament views such behaviour". Martin O'Neill, the committee chairman, added: "We want to put the frighteners on the big corporations. They are noted for their arrogance."

Gadget slows stolen vehicles

CAR THIEVES who career off at 90mph could soon be stopped by a device that reduces their speed to a level at which even a policeman on a bicycle can catch them.

The gadget, designed by the traffic information provider Trafficmaster, heralds the end of the car chase, as the stolen vehicle can travel no faster than 15mph. A unit in the engine is activated when the car is broken into. As it comes in range of one of Trafficmaster's 7,000 infra-red sensors across the country, the unit signals the company's control centre. Operators alert the owner and police.

BY CLARE GARNER

lice. A transmission to the car implements a reduction in its speed by restricting the fuel.

Terry Shurwood, the sales director at Trafficmaster, which plans to launch the system in April, said: "The advantage we have over other systems is that it offsets the need for a high-speed police car chase... It would be interesting to see a policeman on a bicycle - a fit policeman perhaps - approaching a car when the car is reduced to 15mph." The device will cost £200, plus an annual subscription of £80.

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سكزا من الامم

Human cloning may be tried next year

SCIENTISTS COULD try to create the first human clones as early as next year after yesterday's approval for so-called "therapeutic cloning" by the Government's statutory watchdog on embryo research.

The technique promises to revolutionise medicine with effective treatments for genetic disorders, incurable illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, and certain forms of cancer, but its use is likely to unleash a wave of protest concerning its ethical implications.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, in a joint report with the Human Genetics Advisory Commission, has given its blessing to the creation of cloned human embryos to generate tissue for transplant surgery.

In the face of strong opposition from anti-abortion groups, the Government-appointed experts said that therapeutic cloning - where cells are harvested from a cloned embryo that is not allowed to survive longer than 14 days after fertilisation - is justified on the grounds of the huge medical benefits the technique could

provide. The joint report recommends that the Government should explicitly ban reproductive cloning - where a cloned embryo is implanted into a womb and allowed to develop into a baby - to allay public fears over the creation of cloned adult replicas.

Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the advisory commission, said: "It is quite clear that human reproductive cloning is unacceptable to a substantial majority of the population. A total ban on its use for any purpose is the obvious and straightforward way of recognising this."

Ruth Deech, chairman of the embryology authority and a law lecturer at Oxford University, emphasised that existing regulations on human embryo research make it illegal to carry out cloning but she said an "explicit ban" by the Government is desirable before it allows therapeutic cloning.

"We are suggesting to the Government that this may be a wise thing to do," she said, "in order that the prohibition is enshrined in law rather than relying on the decision of a statutory body."

The Department of Health will consider the authority's

recommendations to include two extra categories of research to the existing five allowed under present legislation.

This will allow embryos to be cloned to extract the important embryonic "stem cells" that can be grown in the laboratory into any one of the hundreds of different tissue types of the body.

Such a procedure would generate virtually unlimited supplies of tissue for transplanting into a patient, who would not suffer tissue rejection because the transplants would be genetically identical.

Anne McLaren, a distinguished embryologist and member of the authority, said she would not be surprised if an application for human cloning was made in 1999. "I'd have thought within a year," she said yesterday.

Austin Smith, director of the Centre for Genome Research at Edinburgh University, is likely to be the first scientist to apply for approval to be the first to create a cloned embryo for tissue transplants.

Dr Smith, who is collaborating with the scientists from the nearby Roslin Institute who cloned Dolly the sheep, has

already submitted an outline of his proposal to the HFEA and is confident he will be given the official go-ahead soon.

Harry Griffin, assistant director of science at the Roslin Institute, welcomed the authority's recommendations: "We particularly welcome the proposal to extend the purposes for which embryo research can be carried out to include the development of new treatment of damaged tissues or organs," he said.

The joint report resulted from a consultation exercise that began last January when people were invited to submit their views on cloning. The experts received about 200 responses, of which about 40 per cent came from members of the public, with the rest coming from academics, religious groups, ethicists, lawyers and industry.

The report says that 80 per cent of those who responded were opposed to reproductive cloning and 23 per cent were against any form of embryo research or manipulation, arguing that the embryo possesses the full moral status of a human being.

Leading article. Review, page 3

Journalist Winchell tried to set up Sinatra, FBI reveals

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York

IF THERE were any doubts that the life of Frank Sinatra had a murky side, the FBI put them to rest yesterday.

Answering requests from media organisations lodged under the Freedom of Information Act, it released some 1,200 pages of documents about the crooner, spanning several decades.

The compendium, a 10in-thick doorstop of faded and heavily annotated papers, reveals a hodgepodge of claims and counter-claims about the singer, who died in May this year.

They range from allegations that Sinatra - whose nicknames included 'Ol' Blue Eyes' and the Chairman of the Board - dodged the draft during the Second World War to details of death threats that were made against him.

There did not appear to be any single bombshell, however, that might stain the legend of Sinatra, who remains one of the foremost icons of American pop and entertainment.

For most of his life the New Jersey-born performer fought innuendo and rumour - and FBI investigation - arising from his involvement in the high-rolling casino world of



The entertainment columnist Walter Winchell (left), who made baseless charges against Sinatra, seen in the main picture (second left) with underworld figures including Carlo Gambino, of the notorious Mob family (second right). The photograph, taken in New York in 1976, was used as evidence at a Mafia trial.

Las Vegas and his contacts with the Mafia underworld.

Among Mafia figures whom Sinatra counted as his friends were Sam Giancana, Charles "Lucky" Luciano and Al Capone's cousin Joseph Fischetti. The ties between the singer and the Mafia first became headline news in 1947, when he attended a lavish party in Cuba in honour of Luciano, who had at that time been deported from the United States.

The FBI said it was releasing all but 25 pages of its files on Sinatra, dating all the way

back to a 1938 mugshot taken when he was arrested on seduction charges. The crooner, agents said, had seen all the material himself after he had filed his own request for access to them in 1979 and 1980.

Among the papers yesterday was the disclosure that the FBI received tip-offs from the late entertainment columnist Walter Winchell. In 1944 Winchell told agents about alleged death threats to a baby of the singer. In the same year he said Sinatra had paid \$40,000 for a government classification to avoid being drafted to serve in the war. The FBI investigated but found the charges to be baseless.

A memorandum dated 1971 and covered with pencil marks and underlinings claims that Sinatra was part of an alleged conspiracy to defraud \$100,000 from a stockbroker named Ronald Alpert. Among others listed as part of the plot are several well-known former crime figures, including Aniello Dellacroce, Carlo Gambino, of the infamous New York Gambino Mob family, and Giuseppe "Joe" Gallo.

There are serial documents

describing, in the dry language of law-enforcement agents, occasions when Sinatra had been the target both of death threats and extortion schemes. There are FBI memos, for example, on a report of a 1966 bomb threat against him in Miami Beach as well as a 1969 threat in which Sinatra was given the option of facing death or donating \$2m to the Vatican. The sender of that letter was not prosecuted but dispatched by federal agents for psychiatric treatment.

Included in the files is a hand-written letter from a self-described psychic claiming that the singer was a political subversive bent on dividing the United States "West against East, East against West".

Sinatra also suffered from reports that he was a closet "red under the bed". One section of yesterday's compendium includes a 1955 message to the legendary director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, from the Philadelphia field office reporting that an informant had claimed "Frank Sinatra, well-known radio and movie star, is a member of the Communist Party". Another memo

Hinchliffe on corruption charges

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield entrepreneur whose Facia retailing group collapsed two years ago with debts of £100m, was yesterday charged in a court in the city with 10 counts of corruption, the Serious Fraud Office said.

It is the latest in a series of blows to the former Facia chief, whose retail empire briefly included well-known high-street names such as Sock Shop, Freeman Hardy and Willis, Red or Dead and Salisburys. The SFO charges relate to Mr Hinchliffe's involvement with the Israeli United Mizrahi Bank, which helped finance Facia's purchase of a string of shoe shops from Sears, the

struggling retail group. The charges allege Mr Hinchliffe and his partner, Christopher Harrison, who was not indicted yesterday, paid large sums of money to John Doherty, described as "an agent of United Mizrahi Bank." The payments, in 1994, were allegedly "an inducement or reward for showing favour in relation to the affairs of the United Mizrahi Bank."

Mr Harrison is being held by the German authorities pending a trial on unrelated charges. Mr Doherty was charged with 11 counts of accepting in-



Stephen Hinchliffe was "flabbergasted" by arrest

ducements and one count of paying an inducement to another United Mizrahi "agent". In all, he is charged with accepting £900,000.

Another man, Robert Leckie, was charged in a London court yesterday with five counts of aiding and abetting the acceptance of the inducements by Mr Doherty.

Mr Hinchliffe's lawyers said he was "flabbergasted" by his arrest. He will be pleading "not guilty", his lawyers said and is looking forward to "defending the action root and branch."

"He doesn't accept any of it at all," his lawyers said. "The case will allow him to address once and for all the whispering

campaign that has been conducted against him."

He has been remanded on £200,000 bail to 26 February. The other men have been remanded on bail of £50,000.

Mr Hinchliffe shot to prominence in 1996 when he pulled off a string of deals which saw him buy a series of struggling high-street businesses at knock-down prices. A strapping 6 foot 5 inch man with a shock of blond hair and lavish lifestyle, he was the epitome of the fast-living 1990s entrepreneur.

But the businesses he bought could not cope with the speed of expansion and the empire was eventually placed into administration.

Pinochet's lawyers are Amnesty donors

THE LAW firm seeking to block General Augusto Pinochet's extradition to Spain on the grounds that one of the Law Lords has links with Amnesty International is itself a contributor to the human rights pressure group, The Independent on Sunday has revealed.

City lawyers Kingsley Napley have objected to the Home Secretary about Lord Hoffman, who ruled against the former Chilean dictator, on the grounds that his wife, Gillian, is an administrative assistant with Amnesty International.

Amnesty International has since stated that Lord Hoffman is also an unpaid director of a charity affiliated to Amnesty.

BY KIM SENGUPTA AND STEVE BOGGAN

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, who ruled in favour of General Pinochet's immunity in the High Court is also involved with the charity. And Colin Nicholls QC, the brother of the general's counsel, Clive Nicholls, is a member of Amnesty.

Lord Hoffman is one of the Law Lords who ruled, on a majority of three to two, that General Pinochet does not benefit from immunity on charges of genocide, torture and terrorism as a former head of state.

Amnesty International and other human rights groups made representations at the hearing that the former dictator should face justice.

Kingsley Napley last night confirmed that a donation had been made to Amnesty International. The Independent has learned that in their submission to the Home Office General Pinochet's lawyers stated: "The claim to sovereign immunity was rejected by a majority of the House of Lords. Lord Hoffman, who formed part of the majority, should not have heard the appeal."

"The decision reached by the House of Lords should therefore be reviewed by the Secretary of State and the majority view preferred."

THE GOVERNMENT admitted yesterday that the Millennium bug posed a real threat to Britain's armed forces after tests found that it disabled completely a key anti-aircraft missile system.

The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, revealed that Rapier, the Army's main low-level air defence unit, had failed when tested for compliance with the year 2000.

Describing preparations for the bug as the Ministry of Defence's "highest priority" after its main front-line operations, Mr Robertson said that £200m had been allocated to make sure the date change passed by as smoothly as possible. The

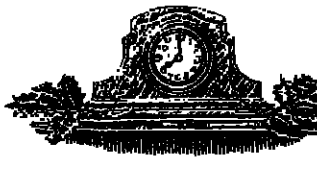
BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

armed forces will be on standby to offer emergency help if other government departments, or even other countries, suffer major breakdowns in communications or infrastructure, he confirmed.

More than 1,000 front-line and 18,000 non-critical computer systems in the MoD had been identified as vulnerable to the millennium problem.

The Defence Secretary said that half of all the front-line computers and electronic equipment had been made safe and 95 per cent should be corrected by next autumn.

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Right to roam delayed until Lords reform

THE GOVERNMENT is to grant walkers legal rights of access to private land, but intends to delay the move until after the reform of the House of Lords.

Senior ministers have decided that the Government would not succeed until after the hereditary peers - including many of Britain's biggest owners of moorland and heath - have been removed from the Upper House.

"We will need some legal underpinning. But we won't be able to start until the Lords is reformed," said a source.

The delay could mean putting off action until after the general election, disappointing Labour voters who have been campaigning for the right to roam. Earlier this year the Government said it would consider working for improved access through voluntary agreements, if they could be shown to be satisfactory.

In response, the Country Landowners' Association set up an access register and posted it on the Internet to show the number of sites where walkers are welcomed. At the start of this month more than 2,000 sites were represented, the CLA said, representing over a

BY COLIN BROWN,
PAUL WAUGH AND
MICHAEL MCCARTHY

million acres. But this figure falls short of the Government's target of granting access to all 3.5m acres of "open countryside" - mountain, moor, heath, down and common land - in England and Wales.

Many Labour MPs were disappointed by the Government's voluntary approach, after the party's clear pre-election commitment to legislate on the right to roam. At a Ramblers' Association rally in 1995, Frank Dobson, then Labour environment spokesman, said: "The next Labour government will make the right to roam a legal reality. We will change the law to give people that right."

Tony Blair followed this up with a personal pledge, in a letter to the Ramblers' David Beskin later that year, in which he said: "As Frank Dobson pointed out in his speech, a Labour government will give people a 'right to roam', which will be coupled with a duty to respect crops, livestock and valuable habitats."

Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, will today use

a speech to the Countryside Commission to state that a final decision on the right to roam will be announced in the next few weeks.

Gillian Shephard, the Conservative environment spokeswoman, yesterday backed calls for some form of legislation, but accused Mr Meacher of being motivated by old fashioned "class warfare" over the issue.

Mrs Shephard said that there was neither a need nor a demand for a catch-all "freedom to roam" law, but there was a case for new legislation to redefine laws of trespass and landowner liability.

Ministers are still considering the detail of the legal powers that would be required.

The Green Paper proposed a right of access to mountain, moor, heath and down and registered common land, but it stopped short of a right to roam in all circumstances. It ruled out access to developed land, and said the right should not extend to agricultural land not used for extensive grazing.

The Countryside Commission would have a statutory duty to issue guidance on identifying countryside to which there was a right of access.



Actress Billie Whitelaw preparing to present awards at the Carlton Women in Film and TV ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel in London yesterday
Neville Elder

Disgraced Newcastle duo return

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S little remaining credibility in the City of London was wiped away yesterday when Freddie Shephard and Douglas Hall, the football club's disgraced shareholders, returned to the board after a nine-month absence, prompting a walk-out by three other directors.

Denis Cassidy, Newcastle's chairman, and two non-executive directors resigned after the board voted by a majority of four to three to reappoint the duo. BT Alex Brown, the City firm that acts as Newcastle's stockbroker also stepped down.

The boardroom exodus casts doubt over Newcastle's status as a publicly listed company. The club has been in an almost permanent crisis since it floated on the stock market two years ago. During that time, nearly all the original board members have left the company.

"Minority shareholders must be punch drunk by now," said Nick Batram, a football analyst at City stockbrokers Greig Middleton. "It comes as no surprise. There have been more transfers on the board than on the playing squad."

The club has struggled on the pitch, finishing in the bottom half of the Premier League last season and losing the FA Cup Final. At the start of the

current season it removed Kenny Dalglish as manager, replacing him with Rudd Gullit.

Since its flotation at a share price of 135p, Newcastle shares have steadily lost ground, although they have recently been lifted by hopes that the club might be taken over by a media group. Yesterday, the shares slipped 3p to close at 94p.

The latest row follows moves by Mr Shephard and Mr Hall to re-elect themselves to the board of Newcastle United Plc, the holding company for the football club. The two men were forced to resign in disgrace in March, after they were exposed in the *News of the World* mocking the club's fans and insulting the players.

Mr Cassidy, who took over as chairman in July, acknowledged his opposition to their return to the board of the company. Instead, he agreed to reappoint them to the board of the football club, which is a subsidiary of the holding company.

Last month, however, Mr Shephard and Mr Hall announced plans to seek re-election at the company's annual general meeting. As the two men between them control 65 per cent of the club's share capital, they could vote through any motion without opposition.

Gummer unrepentant on feeding daughter a hamburger

THE FORMER minister who fed his six-year-old daughter a hamburger to promote a government line that "beef is safe" expressed no regret yesterday, saying that he was not then aware of any health risks from eating cattle offal.

John Gummer, who held office at the Ministry of Agriculture,

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

Fisheries and Food (Maff) from September 1985 to May 1993 - including a promotion in 1989 - told the BSE inquiry yesterday that in 1990 he had not heard any scientific evidence to back a ban on offal such as the

spinal cord and gut. "In matters as important as these it is essential to have a personal benchmark to be applied to decisions wherever appropriate. In such circumstances I applied the test, 'Would I be entirely happy for my children to eat this?'" Mr Gummer said. So in 1990 he posed for

photographers at an agricultural fair, pressing a hot burger on his daughter Cordelia.

The Southwood report, published in February 1998, had suggested such a ban on offals for humans because those would be the most infectious parts of cattle incubating the disease.

The previous ministerial

team, including John MacGregor, had announced that such a ban would be implemented.

Mr Gummer said that despite the rising numbers of BSE cases - then nearly 5,000 annually - and although it was his job to implement the legislation, he did not feel a sense of urgency. He said: "The offal ban

had not been asked for. On the other hand it was something we had determined to do."

He added that he did not then believe the ban was "essential for public health" and said that when he took over his ministerial position many local authorities whom he had to consult were on summer holiday.

Asked if he might have moved quicker if he thought there was a serious risk to public health he said: "All I can say is that was not put to me. In fact the opposite was put to me."

But Mr Gummer agreed that if legislation was seen as urgent there was often room to "find a way through". In fact, the offal

ban was not introduced until November 1989 - 10 months after the Southwood report suggested it.

In the time Mr Gummer was at Maff, BSE was first identified and the epidemic peaked. But the first cases in humans, as CJD, were only recognised three years later.

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Freudian-slip funsters find asylum in chamber of errors

"MENTAL ILLNESS is as common as asthma," announced Frank Dobson yesterday. "It affects as many as one in six adults at any one time."

There were about a hundred MPs in the chamber when he said this, which suggested 16 or 17 of his colleagues might be showing signs of mild delusion if the assembly were genuinely representative of the nation at large. But they are not - if anything, the ratio in Parliament is likely to be rather higher than in the general population, given the established connection between high achievement and mental fragility.

The absent villain here was Care in the Community, which Mr Dob-

son had come to pitch into a pauper's grave, but Honourable Members have long been exempt from such programmes. Outside of an election year, they know they won't find themselves turned out on to the streets, where they might trouble the public by shouting aggressive questions about fiscal autonomy for the Scottish parliament. They already have their asylum, a Victorian Gothic pile in which they can pursue their obsessions protected by a diligent and caring staff; Betty Boothroyd may be strict but she is no Nurse Ratchett and only waves the strait-jackets when other therapeutic interventions have failed.

But if Mr Dobson's figures are correct, they can't all be mad - which puts a particular premium on identifying the tiniest symptoms of derangement. This isn't easy, given the general peculiarity of behaviour in the House. What psychiatrists call "dissociation of effect", for instance, is commonplace in the Chamber. This is when a patient bursts out laughing or roaring with anger, despite the absence of any obvious stimulus. Yesterday, during Ann Widdecombe's reply, Paul Boateng, who usually appears broadly sane, suddenly went "Har, har, har!" employing the mirthless, italicised laugh members use

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

to convey contempt. On the Tory benches, John Bercow was twitching and jerking like a bad case of

shell shock, while I noticed also that Dr Liam Fox, up against Donald Dewar in Scottish questions, had written his notes in green ink, often accepted as an unambiguous indicator of mental disturbance.

But for all these symptoms there were also innocent explanations. Psychoanalytic approaches are no more successful either, given that politicians are subject to inhibitions over and above those felt by the rest of us. Freudian slips, for instance, are unlikely to open a window on the inner psyche of a politician, only into the cavity wall between public presentation and private opinion. Mr Dobson, a decent and diligent min-

ister is rather prone to these involuntary revelations - a couple of weeks ago, discussing pay rates in the NHS, he told the House "we all know that pay increases have to be avoidable... er... affordable".

Yesterday he thanked Nicholas Winterton for welcoming his statement, saying he had been "more supportive than the present government um - than the previous one". Ann Widdecombe had earlier sought a guarantee that there would be "no enforced medication of parents - I mean patients". This seemed more promising as a diagnostic clue, after references to "inappropriate discharges" and a

particular interest in closing mixed wards in mental hospitals. Does she secretly dream of dosing the water with bromide and putting an end to all inappropriate discharges, inside the NHS and out? Well, probably not - if she suffers from neurosis it is likely to be only that occupational disease of adversary politics, a phobia of admitting the other side have done something sensible. Still, it is very confusing. One can only sympathise with the journalist overheard approaching a member of Mr Dobson's team and asking for help - "This mental health statement," he said wistfully, "any chance of an idiot's guide?"

Psychopaths to be locked up for safety

MENTAL HEALTH
BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

PLANS TO lock up psychopaths who pose a risk to the public were announced by the Secretary of State for Health yesterday in wide-ranging changes to mental health services.

In a Commons statement, Frank Dobson said an extra £700m would be invested over three years to create a system that was "safe and sound for both patients and the public".

Reiterating his belief that care in the community had failed, Mr Dobson said changes to the system were urgent and necessary. "Its failure to deal effectively with the most severe cases has dealt a blow to all mental health efforts and lost the confidence of the public."

Mr Dobson told MPs that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and he were looking at plans to create a new form of "renewable detention" for people with severe personality disorders who were thought to pose a grave risk to the public.

At present the Mental Health Act covers only those with "treatable" conditions.

If the new plans are adopted, this category would cover people such as Michael Stone, who was convicted of murdering Lin and Megan Russell and who suffers from an untreatable psychopathic disorder.

Mr Dobson said renewable detention raised all sorts of ethical and practical problems. "But we are convinced the safety of the public must be the prime concern," he added. A na-



Dobson: Public safety was the biggest concern

because it isn't coping with the small minority of mentally ill people who are a nuisance or a danger to both themselves and others."

But the Conservative Health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, told MPs: "The view of the profession is that care in the community has been an overwhelming success, and it is only a small number of inappropriate discharges that have caused quite justifiable concern amongst the public."

She told Mr Dobson that a major factor in patients' defaulting on medication was the rationing of the latest anti-psychotic drugs.

Simon Hughes, for the Liberal Democrats, urged the Government to put more money into mental health care. "It would be better as a policy not to be tough on care in the community but to be tough in providing resources for care in the community," he said.

A review of mental health legislation in Scotland was also announced by the Scottish health minister, Sam Galbraith, to report back by summer 2000.

Mental health charities, the British Medical Association and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders broadly welcomed Mr Dobson's announcement.

But Cliff Prior, the chief executive of the National Schizophrenia Society, said the proposed reforms were not backed by enough money, describing them as "the right menu but in small portions".

Leading article, Review, page 3



The Conservative leader, William Hague, visiting the Crisis cold-weather shelter for the homeless in Southwark, south London, yesterday

Hague appoints five peers to team

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE turned to the grandson of the former Labour prime minister Clement Attlee last night as he made five appointments to his depleted frontbench in the House of Lords.

Earl Attlee, a hereditary peer who switched from the independent cross benches to the Tories two months before last year's general election, becomes an opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland. He was previously a Tory whip.

The promotion of the 42-year-old Territorial Army officer was part of the Tory party leader's attempt to restore a sense of order to his troubled troops in the Lords. Four Tory peers resigned from his frontbench team on Thursday in protest at the sacking of Viscount Cranborne as opposition leader in the Lords for conducting secret negotiations with Tony Blair in an attempt to reach an all-party consensus on reform of the second chamber.

Also promoted to the Tory team is Baroness Denton of Wakefield, a former racing and rally driver who was a minister at the Northern Ireland, trade and environment departments in John Major's administration. She becomes a trade and industry spokeswoman. She left the front bench last year, when she was diagnosed as having a malignant brain tumour, but has now recovered after an operation a year ago.

The other appointments announced by Mr Hague last night were Lord Cope, a former Treasury minister and Conservative Party treasurer, who becomes a home affairs spokesman; Lord Dixon-Smith, a farmer who becomes a local government spokesman; and Lord Astor of Hever, who is made a whip working on the health and social security briefs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wine drinking

THE GOVERNMENT has spent £192,604 on wine, with the average bottle costing £11.72 since coming to power last May. Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett disclosed.

Good causes

THE AMOUNT of National Lottery money going to good causes has reached £8.6m, Sports minister Tony Banks said.

Woodlands

A NEW set of priorities for managing England's woodland was published yesterday. Agriculture minister Elliot Morley said.

New accident insurance laws 'will penalise motorists'

THE GOVERNMENT came under attack for penalising motorists yesterday when Frank Dobson moved to recover some of the cost of treating road accident victims from insurers.

While the Secretary of State for Health acknowledged that the Association of British Insurers had estimated premiums could rise by up to £9 per policy if the full charge was passed on, he said the industry would have had nearly two years to adjust by the time the changes became law next year.

Opening the second reading debate on the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill, Mr Dobson dismissed accusations of big increases in insurance premiums as "untrue scare stories". But Ann Widdecombe, the

INSURANCE

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Shadow health secretary, said the Government was determined to "penalise motorists" after parallel rises in fuel and vehicle excise duties.

Challenging Mr Dobson over who would pay for uninsured motorists, she added: "This legislation will be a double-whammy for everyone who is prudent enough to take out a motor insurance because as law-abiding citizens they will be charged twice."

Mr Dobson insisted the charges were not new because insurers had been liable since 1930 and the current collection system was a "shambles".

"We are just making sure

that in future NHS hospitals get the money to which they have been entitled for the last 68 years."

The switch to a central "recovery unit" to collect the money direct from insurance companies could net up to £165m for hospitals in Britain, the Health Secretary claimed.

"The new scheme will bring order out of chaos. It will not place a large burden on motorists or insurers."

"It is a sensible, practical measure that will raise much needed extra funds for hospitals in every part of the country," he added.

Mr Dobson said the NHS was losing substantial amounts of money because the present system for collecting the

charges, combining "minimal income with maximum inconvenience", had failed.

Last year it raised just £16m, with NHS staff forced to ask injured motorists for an emergency treatment fee in the aftermath of a crash.

Under the Bill, the right of NHS hospitals to levy an emergency fee will be abolished and a tariff of charges will be introduced instead for the recovery unit to call up in the case of an accident and pursue with insurers.

There will be a flat rate fee of £354 for those who did not need to stay in hospital, and a daily charge for those needing to stay in hospital of £435, with a maximum ceiling in any one case of £10,000.

Universities

MORE ENGLISH students have accepted places to study at Scottish universities despite introduction of tuition fees, Scottish minister Helen Liddell said. "Seven per cent more English students have accepted places at Scottish universities this year compared with last year which I think gives the lie to some of the scaremongering that we heard some months ago," she said.

Justice Bill
GEOFF HOON, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, admitted he was "slightly surprised" barristers had raised few objections to proposals to make it easier for solicitors and legal executives to work as advocates in court. The minister said they broadly

THE HOUSE



supported the forthcoming Access to Justice Bill.

Service life

MARRIAGE BREAKDOWNS and relationship problems are rife for young servicemen because of operations and training, Tory peer Earl Attlee said.

Devolution

THERE IS no "plot" to weaken Scottish devolution after a Civil Service memo showed Whitehall wanted to keep public funds that could be handed to the Edinburgh

Parliament, Scottish Office minister Calum MacDonald said.

Today's business

COMMONS MEETS at 9.30am for backbench debates on: Road traffic reductions; north-west regeneration; predict and provide policy in housing projections; retail food sector; case of Major Eric Joyce. At 2.30pm: Welsh questions. At 3pm: questions to the Prime Minister, followed by debates initiated by Tories on decommissioning and release of prisoners in Northern Ireland; and tax. Debate on Section 155 of the Finance Act 1998, opened by Stephen Evers. Lords debates: The agriculture industry; implications of advances in medical science on the NHS; organophosphate sheep dips.

For some the war in the Far East was over in August 1945. For others the battle still goes on.

This week marks the 57th anniversary of Pearl Harbour. The Japanese authorities have yet to make any meaningful restitution or apology for the terrible suffering endured by thousands of Allied servicemen and women, and civilians of all ages, who were imprisoned and interned between the attack on Pearl Harbour and the surrender in Tokyo Bay in August 1945.

With each day that passes the number of survivors becomes fewer. Before their lives fade into lonely and bitter memory, this is an appeal for people in Britain to show their deep feelings of dissatisfaction with the stance of the Japanese authorities and deliver a clear message. Send a Christmas card to the Japanese Ambassador, 101 Piccadilly, London W1V 9FN, as a peaceful signal of solidarity with this just cause.

This is 'people POWER' - make it work!

If you feel as we do that this is a matter that must reach a fair and just conclusion, and very soon, please also write to Robin Cook, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

This advertisement has been paid for by anonymous supporters of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, Oriel House, Church Green, Witney, Oxon, and the Association of British Civilian Internees, Far East Region, Northington Lodge, Northington, Hampshire.

صكزا من الامم

South Bank buildings to be razed and rebuilt

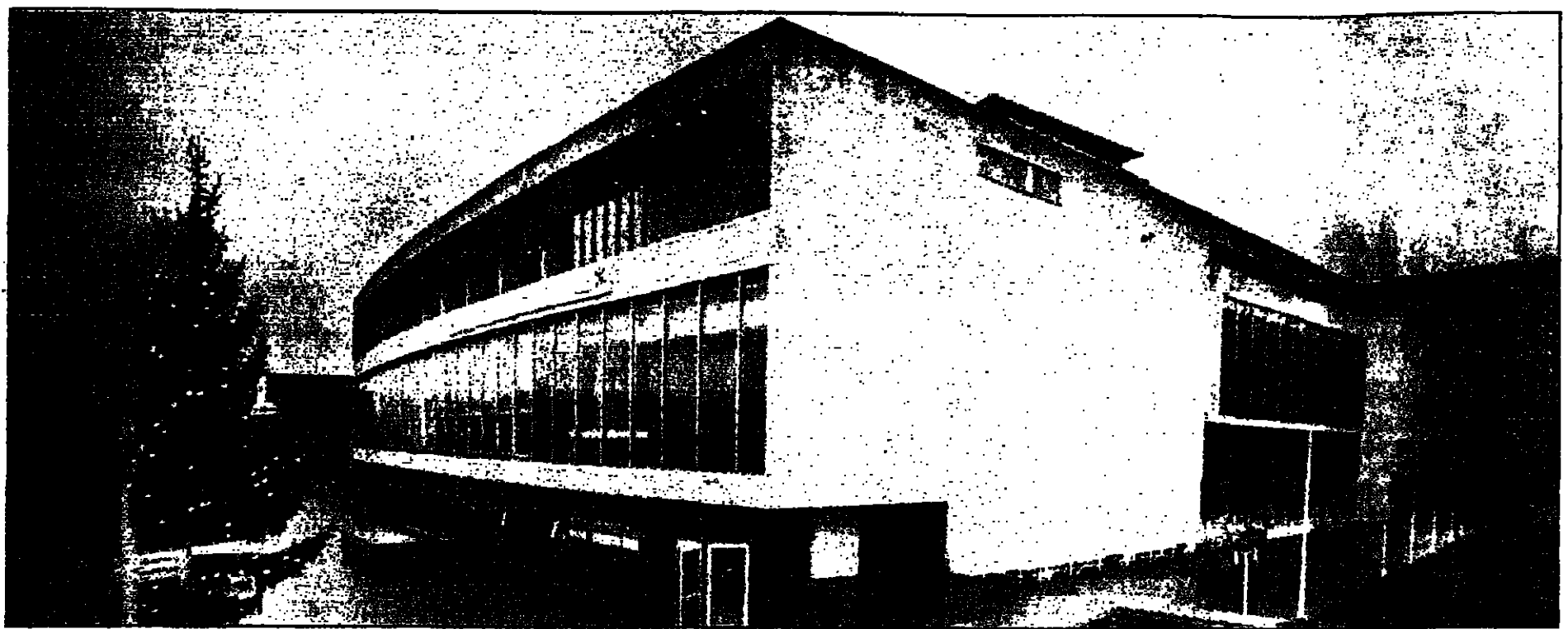
BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

MUCH OF the forbidding concrete jungle that is the South Bank arts complex in London will be torn down and replaced with new galleries, concert halls and cinemas.

The Royal Festival Hall, scene of the Government's ecstatic celebrations after the general election, remains and will be restored and expanded. But the Hayward Gallery, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room and the concrete walkways connecting them will be demolished and rebuilt further west.

The scheme, somewhat less grandiose than the architect Richard Rogers' original plan for a wavy glass roof covering the entire centre, was announced yesterday by Elliott Bernard, the chairman of the complex. A new film complex will be built on the site, which will house the National Film Centre, the Museum of the Moving Image, currently under Waterloo Bridge, and the headquarters of the British Film Institute.

A building will be positioned on the Hungerford car park site overlooking Jubilee Gardens and the arches under Hungerford and Waterloo



A Christmas tree outside the Royal Festival Hall yesterday. The South Bank Centre faces a massive programme of rebuilding, starting in 2001

Neville Elder

Bridges will be opened up to improve access. Mr Bernard said: "We want to see the Royal Festival Hall not only restored but supported by properly equipped new arts buildings and well-designed, user-

friendly open spaces. Our objective is to keep our arts buildings open during the millennium celebrations and then to implement our strategy in a phased way, beginning construction in 2001."

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, said the new proposals were "very dynamic" and Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said the regeneration would transform the

"most important site in the heart of London into a world-class arts complex".

Trevor Nunn, director of the National Theatre, said the plans would improve access from Waterloo rail station and

make the South Bank more accessible to tourists and the local community.

Although everyone seemed happy with the plans yesterday, the regeneration scheme has been the cause of much bit-

terness since 1986, when the South Bank Board inherited the site from the Greater London Council.

When the £100m plans of Lord Rogers of Riverside were ditched earlier this year be-

cause of a lack of Lottery money, Sir Brian Corby resigned as chairman of the centre's board.

Sir Brian was replaced by Mr Bernard, a property developer, who said at the time that he was "emotionally and aesthetically committed" to Lord Rogers' design.

But his commitment was not enough to save the wavy glass roof.

A spokesman for the South Bank Centre said yesterday: "We were looking for something that we could phase in over a period of time, which would be more practical and help with costs, but the glass roof would have had to be constructed in one go and it was not possible. This scheme is just as ambitious and fits in well with the redevelopment all along the river."

No details on funding were available yesterday but the Arts Council has promised up to £20m of Lottery money, the Heritage Lottery Fund is said to have pledged a further £20m and the publisher Lord Hamlyn is putting up £19m.

A master planner for the complex will be appointed early in the new year and competitions will be held for each element of the new strategy.

Florists guilty of cemetery thefts

A FLORIST collapsed in court yesterday when he was found guilty of stealing flowers from a cemetery.

David Scott, 61, and his wife Mary, 45, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, were convicted of four charges of taking floral tributes from the garden of remembrance at Preston cemetery in North Shields between February and April this year.

Judge Denis Orde told them at Durham Crown Court: "You are a couple of grave robbers who committed a very shabby, heartless piece of stealing. Nobody with an ounce of decency would do what you did."

Judge Orde had to leave court for 10 minutes while Scott tried to compose himself for sentencing.

Scott shook as Judge Orde sentenced them both to a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. They were each ordered to pay £500 in prosecution costs.

After the case Emma Dorn, 21, of North Shields, the granddaughter of Ethel Houston, whose floral tributes were stolen by the Scotts, said: "It was absolutely shocking when we found out. I think they're sick individuals."

The thefts first came to light on 6 April when the cemetery's caretaker, Miriam McCann, noticed a woman in the garden of remembrance. She approached and saw Mrs Scott carrying floral tributes out of the garden. She put them down before leaving. Mr Scott was seen to be "keeping watch", Brian Forster, for the prosecution, told the court.

Police later found laurel

BY STEPHEN MEREDITH

taken from a tree in the garden of remembrance and two memorial cards stolen from flowers, one in the back of the couple's car and the other at their home.

Mr Forster said: "At the time the defendants ran a florists shop. The flowers were being stolen to be used from the shop." He later put to the couple: "You were stealing that night and were caught red-handed." They both denied it.

Stephen Duffield, for the defence, said the couple were unlikely candidates to be caught stealing because at the time they ran a reputable business and had never been in trouble with the police before.

In mitigation he explained how the two were forced to move home because of the abuse they had received. They even had to move their daughter to a different school, he said.

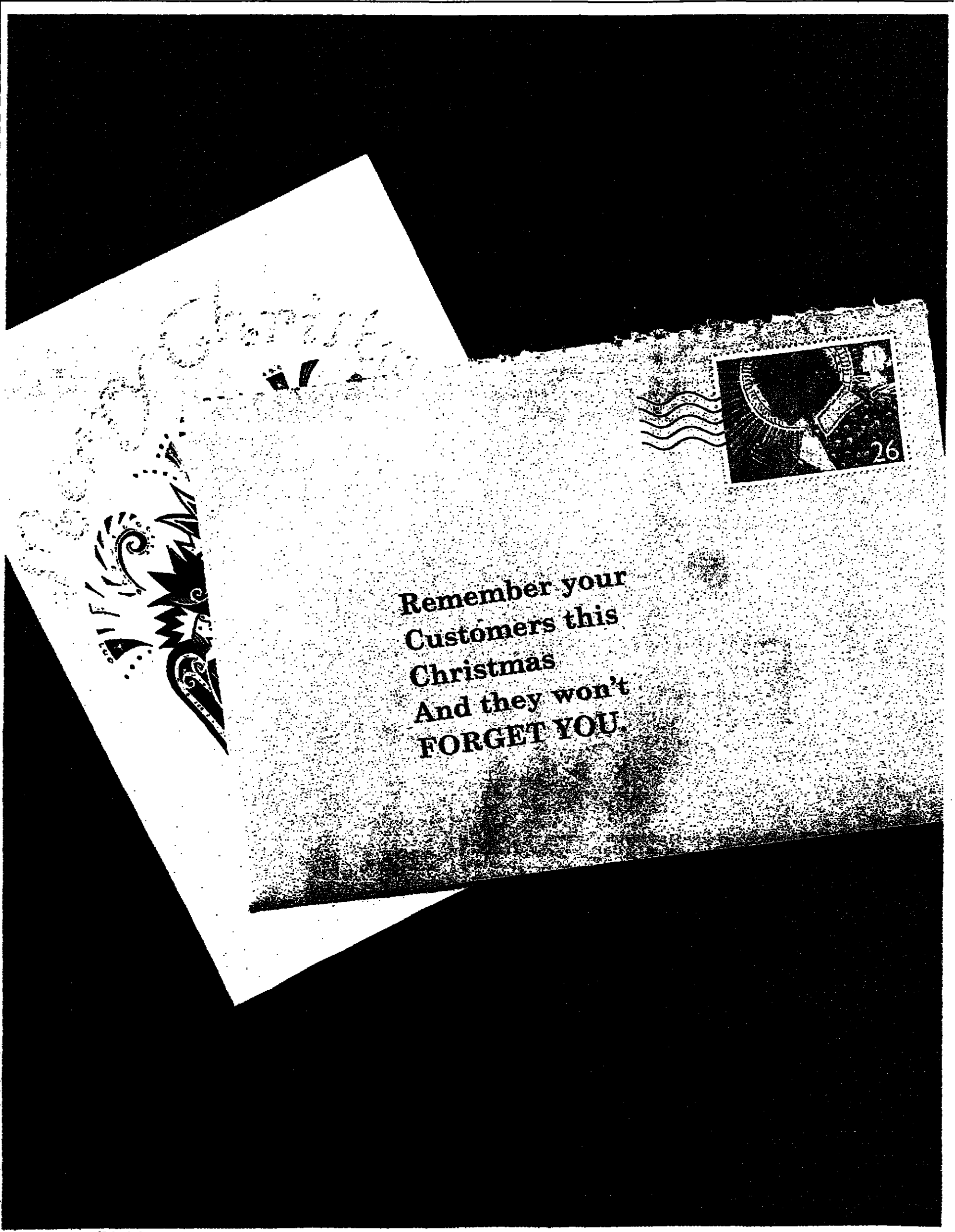
"Their punishment has been very much greater than the loss of their good names," Mr Duffield said. "As soon as the allegations became public they were subjected to verbal abuse, threatening telephone calls, death threats and poison pen letters. Their van has even been petrol bombed and it's been necessary for them to move home to another area."

Mr Duffield said.

The couple were forced to sell their business and now rely on invalidity benefit.

The judge said: "It was a crime of greed - there's no other way of describing it."

He had said earlier that the crimes were of the same principle as "lifting the lid off a coffin".



Card reproduced courtesy of Robot Design.

Pub footballers killed in crash

FIVE MEMBERS of a pub football team died and 13 other men were injured when their minibus and a lorry collided. The team, from the Stamford Arms, Groby, near Leicester, was heading for a night out when the crash happened in freezing fog, police said.

Four men died at the scene of the crash, on the A43 near Measham, at 8.15pm on Monday. A fifth victim died in hospital. One other person was in a "very serious" condition last night and 12 other men in the minibus were also hurt. Five of the team were treated for minor injuries and went home. A service engineer, Simon Barnard, who drove near the

BY ESTHER LEACH

scene, said: "It was like a scrapyard ... with twisted metal everywhere. It's a very busy, overcrowded road and I'm not surprised there was a crash there."

Both vehicles were thought to have been travelling in the same direction. Visibility was about 150 yards when fog descended.

Police named the dead men as: Stephen Curtis, 28, from Newtown Linford; Paul Thompson, 22, from Groby; Stephen Parker, 21, from Groby; Panayi Kouroushi, 30, from Groby; and Jeremy Goodhall, 30, from Leicester Forest East.

EVERYONE RESPONDS TO A CARD.

Figures prove harassment of young blacks

Tom Pilston

The real problem is that the experience of being stopped is like the inability to hail a black cab or to sail past customs officials, has become the norm for blacks. And the irony is that the only one of my six brothers and sisters who has spent any significant time in a police station is paid to do so.

005

هكذا من الراجح

TO THE HOME SECRETARY

Dear Home Secretary,

We, the undersigned, urge you to allow the full legal process of the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to proceed.

The Law Lords have found that Pinochet, as an ex-head of state, has no immunity from prosecution for crimes against humanity. This is not just a Chilean issue - both in principle and because of crimes against many nationals in a number of countries. The UN Convention against Torture, ratified by the UK Government, includes the obligation to ensure that those charged with this unspeakable crime cannot escape justice. This provided the basis for the Law Lords historic ruling to allow extradition to proceed. It falls to you to decide whether to heed the voice of humanity - now given legal form - or to collude with those who plead the privilege of high office.

Relatives of the disappeared live among us. During and after September 11, 1973, their loved ones were lost to them. Hopes that they lived faded only slowly in the face of the deliberate indifference of Pinochet's regime. Many who protested were forced into exile and found asylum here. Their loved ones have never been accounted for. The families continue to live in grief without closure. We join them in asking you to ensure that the General answers legally for his deeds.

Pinochet supporters are misguided if they point to the amnesties of the Northern Ireland peace process. For in these cases guilt was established before amnesty was considered.

Despite the legal arguments, we understand you are under pressure from the Chilean military, Pinochet's American allies and the arms industry. They may seek to break your moral resolve and persuade you to send Pinochet back rather than allow extradition to proceed. If you give way to these pressures you will defy the principles of international human rights and it will be a further act of cruelty for the victims of the Chilean experience.

Please do not permit Pinochet to escape the due process of the Law.

Gwen Adshead	Beatrix Campbell	Vicki T. Fletcher	Anthony Holden	John Lloyd	J. & B. Neidhardt	Tania Rose	Nina Temple
Ines Aguirre	Barbara Cantor	Paul Foot	Gillian Horne	Toby Long	Frances Nicholson	David Rosenberg	Ray Thomas
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web: www.amnesty.org.uk

REDRESS: Seeking Reparation for Torture Victims -
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email: redresstrust@gn.apc.org web: www.redress.org

The Medical Foundation -
96-98 Grafton Road, London NW5 3EJ
Tel: 0171 813 9999 Fax: 0171 813 0033
email: med-foundation@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Israelis 'unlikely' to hand over land

By PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

AS THE PRICE of keeping his right-wing coalition in power, Benjamin Netanyahu is edging away from implementing the next stage of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The Israeli Prime Minister survived possible defeat in the Knesset on Monday night by appealing to the right, who are opposed to the Wye Agreement with the Palestinians. David Bar-Ilan, the Prime Minister's communications director, said yesterday that Israel was unlikely to carry out the second stage of the handover of land.

The crisis within Mr Netanyahu's government and the worst rioting for two years on the West Bank is beginning to overshadow the visit of President Bill Clinton at the end of the week, during which he will visit Palestinian-run areas.

Most of the 2,400 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel are now on hunger strike, and sympathy marches are leading to increased violence throughout the West Bank. Among the casualties was a nephew of Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who was shot in the head by Israeli troops.

Mr Erekat said yesterday: "Doctors told me today that Nasser is clinically dead."

"I hold the government of Netanyahu responsible for the escalation against the Palestinian people and for suspending peace moves."

Mr Netanyahu says he will not release prisoners with "blood on their hands", but the Israeli prison service says that only 430 of the Palestinians in jail are in this category.

Mr Netanyahu has tried to keep his coalition together by presenting the Wye deal as a triumph over the Palestinians. That has fuelled Palestinian protests and angered the United States, which has called for both sides to implement the terms agreed in October.

OUTSIDE THE window yesterday, police sirens wailed and black-clad policemen with sub-machine-guns surrounded the prison van. We, of course, were all waiting for the boys from Mossad to appear at the Larnaca assizes.

A tired old man was selling scratchcards to Cypriot lawyers. Then a red-haired lady in a faded leather jacket and shiny black leather trousers took her stand in the box for the accused. She looked an unlikely candidate for spying, we thought. Her lawyer sought a remand while Judge Akis Hadjichambis shouted angrily at the journalists pushing through the door.

"What's all that noise about?" he demanded. Poor Dora Drousiotou had never expected this kind of attention. Cameramen, photographers, Israeli journalists - who had hired a private aircraft to bring them in from Tel Aviv - poured into the court. Then it was agreed. The lady could have a remand. "This isn't the spying case - it's not serious," one of the lawyers muttered to us. "She is only charged with hiring someone to kill her husband."

But when the lads we had been waiting for turned up, they, too, looked unlikely spooks. Udi Hargov and Igal Damary were still wearing the zip-up jackets they had on when they made their first court appearance last month. Unshaven - one of them was in jeans, the other in corduroys - they both wore spectacles and were thin, rather small men. The charges against them -

BY ROBERT FISK
in Larnaca

that they were spying, with sophisticated technology, on Greek Cypriot military installations - seemed almost preposterous. They entered no plea, but how could anyone think these two were professional secret agents for Israel?

The Cypriot press have already revealed that they rented a flat next to a fish restaurant in the seaside village of Zygi – site of a proposed new naval base – but never visited the café and didn't bother to say good morning to the owner. So the proprietor had gone to the police to tell them there was something distinctly fishy about his two uncommunicative neighbours.

According to police officers, they had been found with radio telegraphy equipment, radar scanners and mobile phones, and they had watched convoys of the Greek Cypriot National Guard driving past the restaurant. Reports said that the Cyprus "anti-terrorist" squad had traced their most recent calls - between 15 October and 6 November - to numbers in Tel Aviv that belonged to the "Israeli Intelligence Institute". Other calls had been made to London.

On an island where local journalists think nothing of discussing cases before evidence is given in court, there has been no end of public debate about what Messers Hargov and Damary might have been doing. Their flat was scarcely



Igal Damary, one of the two suspected Mossad agents, at the Larnaca court yesterday surrounded by police

Takis Ioannides/EP

200 yards from a National Guards camp - which may be a location for the Russian S-300 missiles that President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus still insists on bringing to the island this year.

The Turks have already threatened to bomb the missile bases if they are installed. And Turkey's newest ally in the Middle East is a small Mediterranean country called Israel.

Then there is the S-300 radar system. It can, say the experts, project a coverage of several hundred miles, giving the owners access to most Israeli military air traffic patterns over Lebanon, the Golan Heights

the West Bank and Israel itself. Perhaps for this reason, the charges against 37-year-old Mr Hargov and Mr Damary, 49, were expanded yesterday from the original accusation that they were working for a single "foreign country" to the claim that they were gathering information on military installations of use to "any other states".

The Cypriots might have been more easy-going had their arrest not come only three days after an official visit to Cyprus by President Ezer Weizman of Israel – who was at pains to reassure Cypriots that the Israeli-Turkish alliance did

not threaten them. There was also the little matter of four Israelis arrested here back in 1991 when a policeman came across them - holding tools and a telephone junction box - in the lobby of the building housing the Iranian embassy in Nicosia. They claimed they were "looking for a toilet" and were released with a fine for trespassing.

Indeed, Mossad seems to be having a bad time with its telephone tappers. Only a few months ago, Swiss police caught an Israeli agent bugging the flat of a Swiss citizen of Lebanese origin. Not to mention the two would-be Mossad

killers sent to Amman as Canadian tourists to murder an official of the Palestinian organisation, Hamas. They failed – and ended up swapped for the imprisoned Hamas leader. If this is typical of Israel's supposedly elite intelligence service, why, one asks oneself, are the Arabs so paranoid about Mossad?

At least the Israelis seem to take it seriously. Mossad's operations head resigned - according to the Israeli paper *Maariv* - after Hargov and Damary were arrested.

Other Israeli newspapers took it as confirmation that both worked for Mossad when

the Israeli Prime Minister responded to the case by saying cryptically that "it's one of those things that the less one talks about, the better".

The defence lawyer Andri Triantafyllides, asking for more time to study the extended charges, obtained a remand in custody for the two Israelis until 21 December. The police in black then snapped handcuffs on the pair and hustled them back into the van, leaving behind two possible thoughts that Mossad isn't what it is cracked up to be; and that you must never - ever - be rude to the owners of Cypriot fish restaurants.

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Jean-Yves le Gallou, a supporter of the NF rebel Bruno Mégret, speaking to reporters in Paris yesterday AP

Le Pen accuses NF rivals of 'racism'

THE TIME BOMB of personal hatreds, rivalries and suspicions at the heart of the ultra-right National Front finally threatens to explode this week, with far-reaching consequences for French politics.

An atmosphere of fear reigned at the NF headquarters in Saint Cloud yesterday, as leading members of the party turned their well-honed powers of vituperation and paranoia against one another. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party's president, stalked the corridors, suspecting senior officials he suspected of supporting his rival, Bruno Mégret.

After months of submerged warfare, Mr Le Pen, 70, has publicly accused Mr Mégret of leading "a minority of extremists, even racists" in a putsch against him (the first time that Mr Le Pen has admitted that any part of his party is racist).

The NF secretary-general, Bruno Gollnisch - a Le Pen loyalist - said on television that the party was the victim of a "take-over bid by foreign powers", including the "American secret services". Mr Mégret, 49, may be many things, including a racist, but it is difficult to picture him as an agent of the CIA.

His followers, far from cowed, are pushing for an emergency congress of the party in February. The rebels believe that if the grass roots could be consulted, they could end Mr Le Pen's 26-year reign as "Chef" of the most powerful extreme nationalist party in western Europe. More likely, the far right - a fragile alliance of mutually loathing groups - is about to split into separate movements. This would give the centre-right parties a golden opportunity to reconquer the ground lost since Mr Le Pen's breakthrough in 1984.

A Stalinesque purge of Mr Mégret's supporters has gathered pace since a turbulent meeting of the NF national council at the weekend, when Mr Le Pen was booed by some senior NF members.

One leading Mégret supporter, Pierre Vial, compared Mr Le Pen to Louis XVI: An out-of-touch monarch, unable to comprehend the insurgent forces around him.

Mr Vial was ejected from the party on Monday.

Another leading official, Serge Martinez, was ordered to prepare a hit-list of local activists and officials who supported Mr Mégret. He refused and was ordered out of the party by Mr Le Pen in person as he walked down a corridor in the NF headquarters. In a press conference, Mr Martinez said a "witch-hunt" was in progress and the "very survival of the NF is at stake".

Mr Mégret is unlikely to walk out, but he may be pushed. He is estimated to enjoy the support of 60 out of 100 members of the central committee and 17 out of 40 members of the party's political bureau, as well as the majority on several regional councils of the party.

Mr Mégret's supporters, mostly young or middle aged, believe that he can move the party out of the ideological ghetto created by Mr Le Pen and begin to form electoral alliances that would bring them, and some of their extreme nationalist and xenophobic ideas, to power.

Mr Le Pen and his supporters, including most of the party's old guard but also many younger front activists, accuse Mr Mégret of being prepared to exchange the party's ideological purity for a few cabinet posts. Most of all, perhaps, the struggle is about Mr Le Pen's refusal to accept that the NF is no longer his personal fiefdom.

Dutch prepare air base for Lockerbie case

LIBYA'S ASSEMBLY met yesterday to endorse a final decision on handing over the two Lockerbie bombing suspects, as the Dutch government pressed on with plans to prepare a wind-swept morsel of the Netherlands as sovereign British territory where the long-awaited trial is due to be held.

The Dutch plan to turn the old United States military base at Zeist, six miles from Utrecht, into a British court to fulfil an agreement that the trial of those suspected of bombing the Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland 10 years ago would be conducted under Scottish law and on British soil.

The compromise proposal provides the legal fig-leaf that the trial be held under Scottish jurisdiction and meets the demand of Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, for a trial to take place in a neutral country.

The Zeist military base consists of little more than a clutch of prefabs, an underground bunker and a concrete military hospital on a mound, all ringed by barbed wire. The hospital was built by the US Air Force, which was stationed there throughout the Cold War until the early Nineties.

If the Libyan leader does agree to hand over the two men, they will be housed in the bomb-proof complex located beneath the old hospital. They will be driven into a covered driveway created for casualties arriving at the emergency department. The high level of security may answer Libya's concerns for the suspects' security in the Netherlands. Libya says it fears they could be kidnapped and taken to the US.

The US and Britain are believed to be ready to pay at least £50m to convert the camp into a complex capable of holding several hundred security guards, military personnel, media and relatives of those killed in the bombing.

One sign that Libya may be serious about handing over the men was an announcement that Libyan lawyers were raising money for the defence of the two men. An outstanding disagreement is where the two men, if found guilty, would serve their sentence.

Libya has always refused to hand over the two alleged intelligence agents, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, arguing that they would not receive a fair trial in Britain or the US. But last weekend, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, emerged from a visit to Libya seemingly confident he had finally concluded negotiations on the two suspects' surrender.

"We are on our way to resolving the issue," Mr Annan declared after a meeting with Colonel Gaddafi.

Earlier this year, Libya won the agreement of Britain and the US for a trial before Scottish judges on neutral Dutch territory. The US and Britain have stepped up demands recently for the surrender of the two men to take place before the 10th anniversary of the bombing on 21 December. Britain and the Netherlands signed an agreement in September permitting the transfer of the land.

The final decision on the handover of the two suspects lies with the Libyan assembly, the General People's Congress, which opened its session in the coastal city of Sirte yesterday. Observers in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, said the Lockerbie case was likely to be raised when foreign affairs were discussed.

ANNA SOMERS COCKS

Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city?

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

PRODUCT RECALL

PRINCES 227g CHOPPED TOMATOES IN TOMATO JUICE

Princes is taking the precautionary measure of recalling cans of Princes 227g Chopped Tomatoes in Tomato Juice. Tests have shown that some of this product contains higher than acceptable levels of tin.

The cans involved have the letters 'LJ' at the beginning of the code shown on one of the can ends.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Members of the public should dispose of cans of this product. Before doing so, remove the label from the pack and then send it to Princes Foods, Consumer Services Department, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool L3 1NX to obtain a full refund, including postage.

We naturally apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries, please call our Customer Services Department on 0151 242 5776.



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Germany and US split over role for Nato

SERIOUS RIFTS in the transatlantic defence alliance opened up yesterday as Germany called for a revision of the Nato nuclear weapons doctrine and Washington's proposals for a new global role for Nato ran into a wall of European opposition.

Joshka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, used a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels to challenge Nato to put aside Cold War taboos and renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. The call has already been rejected by the United States and yesterday it was sharply dismissed by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, representing one of Nato's three nuclear powers. He said he saw "no need for a change in the nuclear posture of Nato".

A defiant Mr Fischer, making his debut at Nato, not only repeated the proposal but reacted to Washington's disapproval by defending the right of any member of the alliance to call for debate. Reminding Washington that it does not have a monopoly on ideas and that the Cold War is over, he said: "Reflection has never been something which was banned at Nato. That has been one of the alliance's strengths and should remain so."

Senior Nato officials were polite but dismissive of the idea. One said that the nuclear deterrent combined with conventional weapons had preserved the peace in Europe "for the longest period since the Holy Roman Empire". There would have to be convincing military reasons for undermining its deterrent value, he stressed.

Germany and France, meanwhile, poured cold water on American proposals to radically broaden Nato's scope, while Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, dismissed their suspicions as "hogwash".

She denied that by tabling US proposals for a new "strate-

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

gic concept" for Nato that went beyond the traditional role of collective territorial defence, Washington was trying to turn the alliance into a global policeman. At the same time Ms Albright sketched out a vision for the future development of Nato that was sharply at odds with that held in European capitals.

In it Nato would remain committed to the collective defence of the territory of its 16 - soon to be 19 - members, but it would also take on new tasks and make itself capable of

and co-ordinated steps to protect the allies from attacks by such weapons.

The US would also like to see Nato sweep away any obstacles to operating anywhere in the world if its interests are under threat, even without the authority of the UN Security Council. Kosovo and Bosnia are being cited as examples of the new forms of threat. But the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, joined Germany in insisting that Nato's threat of military action in Kosovo, which was activated without a UN Security Council resolution, was an exception to the rule, not a precedent for the future.

The French reaction yesterday reflects the concern in Europe that the US is railroading its allies into military solutions such as the controversial cruise missile attack on a suspected chemical weapons factory in Sudan, carried out in response to US embassy bombings in two African cities last August.

Reminding the Americans that collective defence would have to remain the foundation of Nato, Mr Vedrine said the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was just "one risk among many" and Nato was just "one actor among many". He also insisted that specific UN endorsement would have to remain the basis for any Nato activities.

Mr Cook appeared to line up behind the Americans, advising against artificial geographical limits to Nato's activities. It was increasingly clear, he said, that Nato would be drawn into security and crisis management in conflicts in areas that went beyond the strict territorial borders of the alliance.

Yesterday's meeting fore-shadowed difficulties in reaching agreement on a new blueprint to take Nato into the 21st century, likely to arise when the alliance's heads of government meet in Washington next April.



Joshka Fischer: Called for reflection in Nato

meeting what she called "a wide range of threats to common interests". To some European ears this smacked of Washington trying to enlist its allies to further its global security ambitions, but Ms Albright said that because the world had changed Nato must also turn its attention to such threats as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The US wants the new Nato blueprint to include such capabilities as an intelligence clearing house on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons



Astronaut Jerry Ross pausing from his work on the space station modules Zarya (top) and Unity (below), to take a picture of the Earth from his perch at the end of the 50ft robot arm of the space shuttle Endeavour, 240 miles above the planet
AP/Nasa TV

Lunar fake was real chip off the rock

WHEN AGENTS from United States Customs placed a phony classified in USA Today seeking chunks of moon rock for sale they were hoping to break open the black market in fake lunar memorabilia. Imagine their surprise when a man surfaced offering them the real thing - an actual moon rock for sale for \$5m (£3m).

The minuscule pebble, encased in plastic and only 12mm by 6mm, has now been seized by the authorities and the putative vendor, identified as Alan Rosen of Florida, finds himself in no small amount of trouble.

The seizure has also visited sizeable embarrassment on

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Honduras, which was given the rock as a personal gift from President Richard Nixon a quarter of a century ago.

"This is the first time we are aware that moon rock was being sold illicitly on the US market," said Raphael Lopez, special agent in charge of the Miami Customs department. "The moon rock was offered for sale to Customs agents for \$5 million".

The newspaper advertisement was placed as part of Operation Lunar Eclipse, which is a long-running undercover exercise involving agents from

Nasa, the Post Office and US Customs. Its original intent was to squash an apparently thriving market in fake lunar items, including phony rock and bits of Nasa rockets.

This real piece of rock was apparently bought by Mr Rosen from a retired Honduran military officer in Honduras more than a year ago. It may be, however, that Mr Rosen's only crime is that he imported the piece into the United States without declaring to Customs. He could face smuggling charges.

The piece was originally collected by the last Apollo mission to the moon. Apollo 17 lifted off on 7 December 1972 - almost

exactly 26 years ago. Its team of astronauts collected samples of rock that were dedicated to the people of the world.

The launch of Apollo 17 was witnessed by students from 78 different nations and the government of each country, including Honduras, received a piece on the rocket's return.

In the course of Operation Lunar Eclipse, agents were told that several of those governments had since sold their pieces of rock for prices ranging from \$5m to \$10m.

In his effort to ensure the authenticity of his purchase, Mr Rosen, 60, went so far as to contact the former commander of the Apollo 17 mission. Eugene Cernan, about a year ago.

"I found it very strange because there isn't anybody who's got a piece of the rock, including any of us who went to the moon," Mr Cernan said this week.

The rock was collected by Commander Cernan and his team in the Taurus Littrow Valley of the moon.

It is believed to be 3.9 billion years old. Randy Cook, a special investigator for Nasa, acknowledges that there may be several other chunks of legitimate lunar rock now on the market. "There are some moon rocks in private hands," he said.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Deutsche launches \$1.5bn bond

DEUTSCHE BANK yesterday launched the largest-ever euro-denominated bond to help finance its takeover of rival Bankers Trust. The German bank said it was issuing a bond with a volume of 1.5bn euros (\$1.5bn), convertible into stock in Allianz, the insurance company in which Deutsche Bank has a 9.4 per cent stake. If all the bonds were fully converted, Deutsche would reduce its Allianz stake by 1.7 per cent.

The announcement came as officials in the United States sought to delay the creation of the world's biggest bank. New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi called on Monday for a delay in the merger until the Holocaust claims involving Deutsche Bank were settled. Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, said he believed the merger would not go through until restitution was made.

London Clubs seeks UK licences



LONDON CLUBS International, the gaming group, is set to apply for new casino licences in the UK over the next few months as the Government presses ahead with the deregulation of the market.

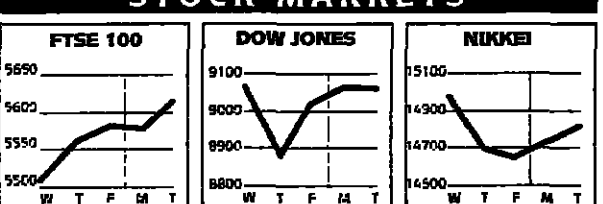
The news came as the company, led by chief executive Alan Goodenough (pictured), reported a sharp drop in interim profits to £10.9m from £14.3m a year ago. London Clubs said earnings were hit hard by the "unexpected and significant" increase in gaming duty introduced in the last Budget. A fall in the number of punters from the Far East as a result of that region's financial crisis, and the strength of sterling, also took their toll on profits, the company added.

Saudi action call boosts oil prices

OIL PRICES - which on Monday sank below \$10 barrel for the first time since 1988 - edged upwards again yesterday after Saudi Arabia called for action to prop up the market. In London, the benchmark Brent crude price rose by more than 50 cents a barrel after Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia told Gulf leaders that they should not hesitate to take measures to shore up the oil price.

Separately, the International Energy Agency revealed in its monthly oil report that growth in world oil demand appeared to have stalled in September and October.

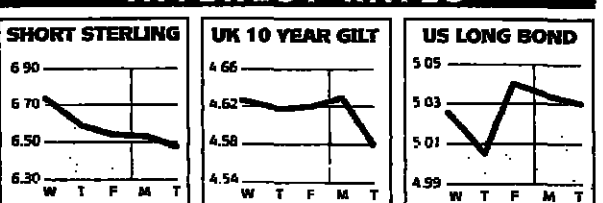
STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

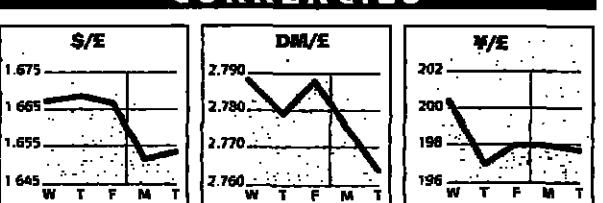
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5615.70	39.00	0.70	6183.00	4599.00	3.35
FTSE 250	4757.70	4.20	0.09	5970.00	4247.00	4.86
FTSE 350	2657.70	15.80	0.60	2969.00	2210.00	3.58
FTSE All Share	2565.57	14.73	0.58	2886.32	2143.53	3.53
FTSE SmallCap	7022.80	3.20	0.16	7793.80	1834.40	4.15
FTSE Biotech	1124.70	-0.30	-0.03	1517.00	1046.00	0.00
FTSE AIM	800.30	-1.80	-0.22	1146.00	761.00	0.00
FTSE EBLCC 100	933.40	1.47	0.16			
Dow Jones	9066.33	-2.32	-0.03	9380.00	7400.00	1.65
Nikkei	14808.20	84.71	0.58	17353.00	12788.00	0.99
Hang Seng	10351.08	-77.74	-0.75	11926.16	6544.79	3.01
Dax	4699.34	-14.62	-0.31	6217.00	3833.00	1.89

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.51	-1.23	5.98	-1.91	4.58	-1.90	4.44
US	5.24	-0.69	5.06	-1.03	4.65	-1.03	5.03
Japan	0.48	-0.26	0.53	-0.21	1.16	-0.65	1.86
Germany	3.41	-0.35	3.27	-0.82	3.90	-1.48	4.75

CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6542	+0.176	1.6451
DM-Mark	2.7638	-0.90p	2.9743
Yen	197.72	-10.12	215.94
£ Index	99.80	0.00	104.00
5 index	106.00	0.00	108.70

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.82	0.24	17.80
Gold (\$)	294.35	-0.44	287.35
Silver (\$)	4.78	0.02	5.43
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
RPI	164.50	3.10	159.55
Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Australia (\$)	2.5698		
Austria (schillings)	18.88		
Belgium (francs)	55.51		
Canada (\$)	2.4721		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7946		
Denmark (krone)	10.28		
Finland (markka)	8.1949		
France (francs)	9.0172		
Germany (marks)	2.6985		
Greece (drachma)	452.01		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.41		
Ireland (pounds)	1.0803		
India (rupees)	63.20		
Israel (shekels)	6.3913		
Italy (lira)	2674		
Japan (yen)	194.27		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0153		
Malta (lira)	0.6030		
Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.04		
Netherlands (guilders)	3.0248		
New Zealand (\$)	3.0322		
Norway (krone)	12.06		
Portugal (escudos)	273.34		
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0095		
Singapore (\$)	2.6053		
Spain (pesetas)	228.45		
South Africa (rand)	9.5060		
Sweden (krone)	13.12		
Switzerland (francs)	2.2117		
Thailand (bahts)	54.00		
Turkey (liras)	483088		
USA (\$)	1.6126		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Zeneca in £40bn merger talks with Sweden's Astra

ZENECA, the pharmaceutical giant, last night announced that it was in advanced talks over a £40bn merger with its Swedish rival Astra.

In a terse statement after the market closed, the two groups said that they were in discussions which could lead to "a possible combination of the two companies in a merger of equals" transaction. The announcement confirmed earlier market rumours which had triggered a £1 rise in Zeneca's share price to £25.20.

A deal between Zeneca, the UK's third largest drug-maker,

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

and Astra, Europe's seventh largest, would create one of the world's biggest pharmaceutical groups with yearly sales of more than \$8.5bn (£5.1bn) and a strong drugs portfolio.

Sources close to the companies said that the deal was likely to be structured as a no-premium merger because the two groups were of similar size. "No company is buying the other," they said.

Astra, the maker of the anti-ulcer compound Losec, the world's best-selling drug, has a

market value of around £18bn, while Zeneca's capitalisation is around £22bn. The sources said that negotiations were on-going and the merger could be concluded as early as this week.

A Zeneca/Astra combination would create a drug company with a strong presence in a number of important clinical areas, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, asthma and pain control. The enlarged group's two blockbusters would be Astra's Losec and Zeneca's Novalex, a leading product for breast cancer.

Industry analysts said the

two companies' drug portfolios had a good fit and were unlikely to pose an anti-trust issue.

"Both companies were starting to move backwards from a competitive standpoint and needed to do something to address that issue," according to David Molawa, an analyst with Bear Sterns.

Zeneca and Astra have been under mounting pressure to link up with a rival to compete with industry giants such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham of the UK, Pfizer and Merck of the US and the recently-formed Hoechst-

Rhone Phoulenc Franco-German group.

The Swedish group's need for a merger was compounded by the threat of a sharp fall in earnings from 2001 when the patents for Losec begin expiring. The Astra chief executive Haakan Morgen cleared the decks for a possible merger in June, when it scrapped a joint venture with Merck to sell Losec in the US.

Yesterday's announcement put an end to years of speculation over the future of Zeneca. The British group has long been seen as a prime takeover

target despite protestations by Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, that Zeneca had the drugs and the finances to remain independent.

It would come as a blow for companies such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline, considered to be two likely suitors, following the collapse of their merger talks.

It is not the first time the two companies have talked about a tie-up. Mr Morgen and Sir David are believed to have held informal talks in March, which were terminated by the UK executive.

City urges full 1-point cut in rates

SPECULATION in the City about another substantial cut in UK interest rates reached fever pitch yesterday, with some traders betting that the Bank of England could even decide to cut rates by as much as a full percentage point.

A combination of a gloomy retail survey released late on Monday night and a call by the Financial Times Lex column for a one-point cut fuelled the rate hopes, analysts said.

A separate survey released by BDO Stoy Hayward and the Centre for Economics and Business Research also added to the pressure on the Bank's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which begins its two-day meeting this afternoon.

BDO's finding that British business expects the UK economy to move into recession by the middle of next year helped keep the FTSE 100 in positive territory despite a weak start on Wall Street.

December short sterling jumped as traders gambled on a significant rate cut tomorrow, and the pound slid almost a penny against the German mark to close at DM2.761.

However, many analysts cautioned that the market was being overly optimistic about the interest-rate outlook, and warned that there could be widespread disappointment when the Bank announces its decision at midday tomorrow.

Despite the feverish speculation on the trading floors, most economists still expect the Bank to move rates down by just a quarter of a percentage point to 6.5 per cent.

Neil Parker, treasury economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, warned: "I see great

BY LEA PATERSON

scope for the markets being disappointed on Thursday and not much for them being pleasantly surprised."

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "I still think a 25 basis point [0.25 percentage point] cut is the most likely scenario. There's a lot of speculation about a 100 basis point [1 point] move, but I think that is wide of the mark."

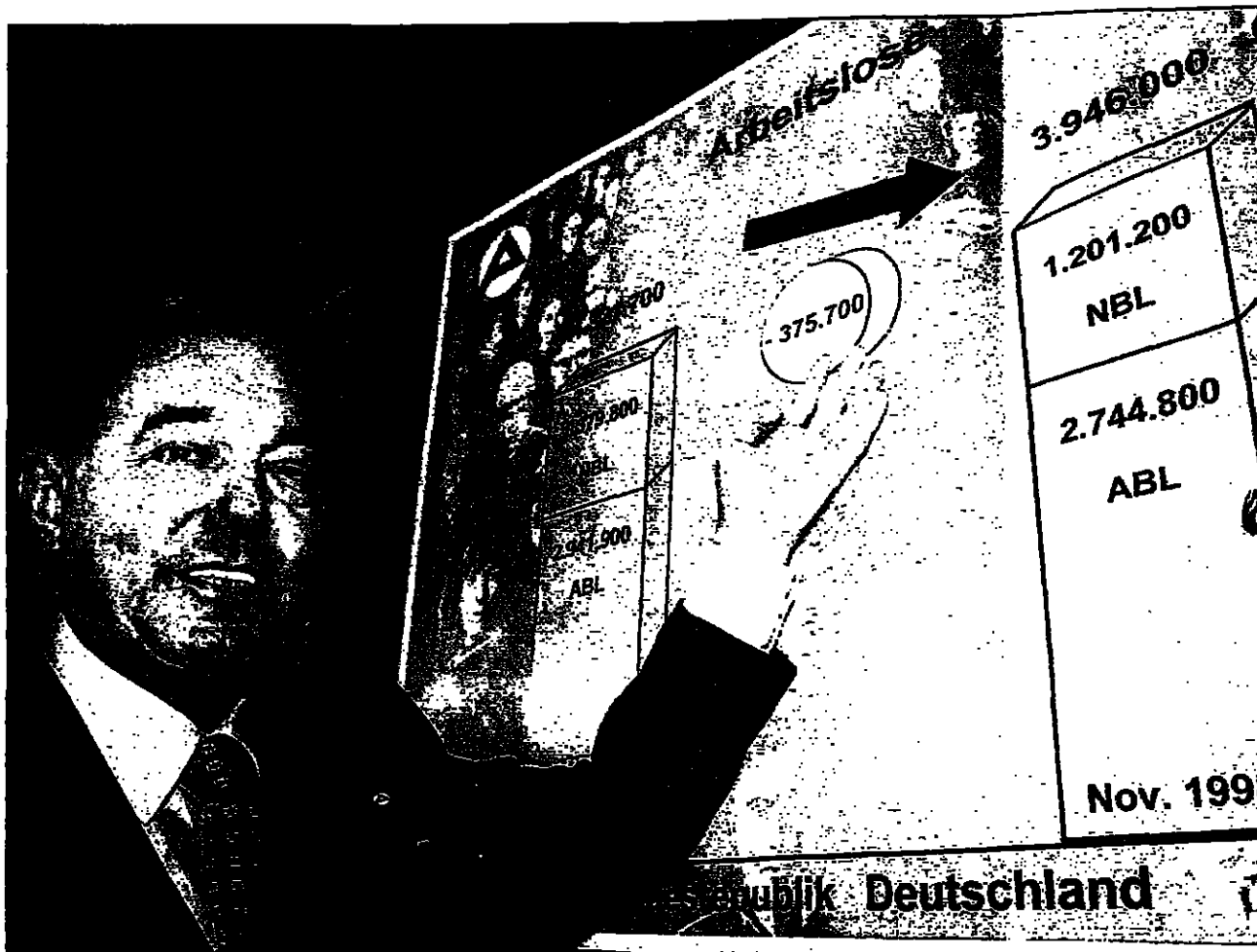
Nick Stamenkovic, chief economist at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures, said: "The markets have factored in a 50 basis point cut tomorrow. If [the Bank] cuts by 25 basis points I think sterling will get a lift and equities will be disappointed. No cut at all could be disastrous for equities."

Since the Bank announced an unexpectedly large rate cut at the start of last month there has been a series of gloomy economic data. The UK's trade deficit hit a record high and official figures have offered evidence of tumbling retail sales and manufacturing output.

Anecdotal survey data have painted a bleak picture of the economic outlook. According to business surveys, even the UK's hitherto buoyant service sector is feeling the pinch.

Last week's unexpected cut in interest rates across Europe to just 3 per cent has also helped strengthen the clamour for the third fall in UK rates in as many months.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "UK interest rates are twice as high as most of Europe. If UK manufacturing is to compete abroad we need a dose of the same medicine."



In Nuremberg yesterday, German Labour Office president Bernhard Jagoda revealed unexpectedly poor unemployment figures, which fuelled fears of a sharper-than-expected slowdown on the Continent. Claus Feitz

European confidence falling

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels
AND LEA PATERSON

THE PRESIDENT of the European Central Bank has cited faltering European consumer confidence as the reason for recent interest-rate cuts in the euro zone. Speaking in Brussels, Wim Duisenberg played down the risks of deflation, but strongly defended the cuts made last week.

Mr Duisenberg said: "One of the main motivations behind the recent decision to lower interest rates was a faltering of confidence, predominantly in the business area, and in some countries' private households."

Addressing the European Parliament's economic committee yesterday, the ECB president said there was no

such a forecast had to be treated with care.

Strengthening the case for interest-rate cuts, Mr Duisenberg pointed to Ireland's ability to reduce the cost of lending while controlling inflation. The country's progress was "remarkable and also gratifying," he said.

Mr Duisenberg's comments coincided with the release of unexpectedly poor German unemployment figures, which fuelled fears of a sharper-than-expected slowdown on the Continent. According to official figures, Germany's jobless total rose by 4,000 in November to 4.11 million. Analysts had been expecting a fall in

unemployment of 30,000.

The poor figures underlined the scale of the problem facing Chancellor Gerhard Schröder with his Alliance for Jobs initiative, analysts said.

The initiative, launched on Monday, is intended to tackle Germany's immense structural unemployment problem and bridge the wide gap between employers and unions.

Bernhard Jagoda, president of the government's Labour Office, welcomed the Alliance but said there were no instant solutions to the joblessness problem. "You can't expect unemployment to be halved after a three-hour meeting," said Mr Jagoda.

Investors force Marston to delay pub deal

MARSTON, THOMPSON & Evershed, the regional brewer facing a £262m hostile bid from Wolverhampton & Dudley, was yesterday forced into an embarrassing climbdown over the proposed securitisation of its tenanted pub estate.

The company has been forced to adjourn an emergency meeting scheduled for this morning after its major

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

institutional shareholders said they would vote down the management's plans if the meeting was not put back.

Institutions have been calling for more time to consider the offer from Wolves, which had made its offer conditional on the securitisation being re-

jected. The delay will cost Marston £5m in fees already agreed.

This includes £2.5m in fees to Nomura, the Japanese bank, and other advisers for arranging the securitisation, £1.6m in hedging costs, £600,000 in credit rating costs and £1.6m for tax and legal advice. Any new deal would cost a similar amount.

The total figure could rise to

£10m if the securitisation is abandoned completely. Some shareholders have been outraged that Marston agreed such high up-front payments.

Marston insisted yesterday that it was not performing a U-turn even though it said only days ago that it would be too costly to delay the securitisation plan.

In a statement the company

said it still "firmly believes" in the plan but recognised that shareholders had strongly indicated a preference to allow the full bid timetable to run its course.

Wolverhampton & Dudley said it "welcomed" the decision. "We continue to believe that our offer is more attractive than their proposals."

However, many shareholder-

ers believe the offer is too low and that either Wolves will be forced to raise its 279p per share offer or risk a white knight bidder entering the fray.

Graham King, the Abbot ale brewing and pub group, is known to be monitoring the situation.

Marston shares closed a penny lower at 290p. Wolves shares closed at 425p.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE GROWING conviction that the Monetary Policy Committee will feel obliged to make a significant base rate reduction tomorrow helped lift Footsie 39 points to 5,615.7; at one time it was 63.1 higher. Supporting indices made modest headway.

Takeover rumours and an investment presentation called for today combined to boost the Zeneca drugs group more than 200p at one time; the shares ended 100p up at 2,520p in heavy trading.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

TRADING in New York stock was mixed yesterday, apart from the continued surge in the computer-laden Nasdaq index, which had increased by 15 points to 2,055 by the early afternoon.

"Investors think that the best hope for earnings growth in 1999 is in computer-related stocks. Spending on technology is one way for companies to improve productivity and drive down costs," said one trader. AT&T rose 4 per cent after it announced a deal with IBM, enabling it to offer Internet-related services.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS ended the day in positive territory after record overnight gains on the Nasdaq, and positive moves regarding futures and options settlement. The benchmark Nikkei index closed up 85 points, or 0.6 per cent, at 14,808.

Computer-related stocks lead the way, with Canon rising 3.5 per cent, and silicon-chip manufacturer Shin-Etsu gaining 3.6 per cent. "There is a growing feeling that we are going to see PC sales increase into the new year," said one observer.

A weak yen also lifted exporters, with Sony up 1 per cent.

HONG KONG

STOCKS SLID as profit-taking ate into Monday's 4.7 per cent surge, which had investors sitting on the sidelines digesting the gains. The Hang Seng index eased 778 points, nearly 1 per cent, to 10,351, with dealers concerned that recent rises are not justified by economic fundamentals.

China Overseas Land and Investment fell by more than 8 per cent as the Chinese-owned developer used the fall in interest rates to raise HK\$79m in equity capital, raising fears of earnings per share dilution.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN shares extended Monday's falls, with a lack of direction and a weak dollar dampening buying in a market preparing for the change to the euro. The DAX closed down 0.3 per cent at 4,708.19 points. News that unemployment had risen in November also weighed heavily on the market.

Allianz tumbled 3.3 per cent on news that Deutsche Bank would issue a 1.3bn euro convertible bond exchangeable into Allianz shares, which if exercised would account for 1.6 per cent of Allianz capital.

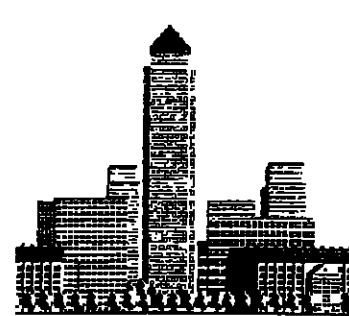
صكدا من الاصل

The beautiful game turns nasty

NEWCASTLE UNITED is proving rather better at creating a stir off the pitch than on it. Since floating on the stock market 18 months ago at the height of the craze for football shares, the club has bumped up against almost as many corporate governance issues as it's managed to score goals. Off the pitch it's wowed the City with a performance of such cavalier disregard for the accepted norms of a publicly quoted company that it almost commands admiration. On the pitch, it has been numbingly pedestrian.

It would be easy to get high minded and indignant about this, to rail against the impotence of regulators in the face of such blatant and deliberate insolence. But the truth of the matter is that even the briefest perusal of the prospectus would have revealed this as a quite likely turn of events. That plainly didn't stop a veritable army of Georgie supporters from subscribing, but the great bulk of fund managers steered clear.

None of this makes what has happened any more justifiable, but at least it recognises the reality of the situation. Douglas Hall and Freddy Sheppard control the company, and as long as they don't break Stock Ex-



OUTLOOK

change listing rules, they can do exactly what they like - subject to the obvious proviso that they don't need to tap the capital markets for money again, for they will be refused next time round.

It is not against the rules to describe the fans as "mugs" for paying so much for the club's football shirts, nor is there anything to prevent you from depicting the captain of your team as "Mary Poppins", even when these comments are delivered from the boudoir of a Spanish brothel. Indeed, most people might reasonably agree with these sentiments.

As for the coming and going of chairmen and non-executive direc-

tors (more often going), these people ought to know better than anyone the false respectability their names lend to business fiefdoms of this sort. It is all very well resigning in protest over such a predictable outcome; most shareholders will want to know why men of such apparent wisdom and reputation took the job in the first place.

Plainly, the best solution would be for the Halls to buy out the minority: this company was never meant to be quoted. Unfortunately that is unlikely to happen. The Halls must know as well as any that Newcastle United isn't worth even the £140m it is now valued at, let alone the £190m at which it was floated. Having "deleveraged" its investment in the club with money raised from "the mugs" at the top of the market, the family is not about to leverage it up again now that everyone is coming belatedly to realise that football is perhaps just a game after all, and not a commercial business.

Manchester United may be worth £675m to Rupert Murdoch; the takeover will give him a powerful position at the negotiating table for TV rights. But it is not apparent that these clubs can command anything

like the same magnitude with anyone else.

As trophy assets, they have become too expensive, even for the rich and famous, while as stand alone enterprises they are surely overvalued in the extreme. Extra revenue from TV rights and merchandising promised to transform football into a high return business. In reality the additional monies are being gobbled up in higher salaries and transfer fees, which in football have doubled in the last two years alone. The lesson is an obvious one; leave football to the players, the fans and the mugs.

Car prices

FOR THE last 14 years Europe's car industry has been propped up by a nifty little model designed in Brussels and marketed under the catchy name of the Block Exemption. Over the same period, the car buying public has been the poorer, particularly in Britain, where the private motorist also has to subsidise the hefty price reductions given to the big company fleets.

The Block Exemption was due to get a facelift in 2002, but now there

are signs that the end of the road may be in sight rather sooner. Yesterday's report from the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee is another signpost in that direction.

Extraordinary as it may seem in these days of open markets and all-powerful anti-trust authorities, the Block Exemption entitles car makers to fix the market by deciding which dealers are allowed to sell their cars, where, in what quantities and under what terms.

In return for these exclusive rights, the dealers invest in expensive showrooms, highly-trained sales staff and well equipped service centres. The cars are maintained to a high degree, and everyone is happy (and safe).

Except they are not. The Block Exemption is only supposed to keep running provided prices do not vary by more than 18 per cent between member states. Yet since 1984 the car firms have been driving a coach and horses through this rule with price variations, before local taxes, of as much as 60 per cent.

Surprise, surprise, the member state that usually comes out worst in these price comparisons is Britain. This may not be uncon-

nected to the fact that sales taxes on cars here are some of the lowest in Europe, which makes the difference in actual purchase price much smaller.

The car makers shrug and explain the price differentials away on exchange rates, all the while making it as hard as possible for anyone to take advantage of the strong pound by driving back over the Channel with a right-hand drive car bought in Europe. The exchange rate argument also fails the test because if it were the dominant factor, then the price of imports would have fallen much more sharply than they have.

The launch of the euro will expose price differences and thus help eliminate them, though not here of course. There is one action Brussels can take immediately, however, and that is to send the Block Exemption to the crusher.

Zeneca/Astra

ANOTHER DAY, another megamerge, and a cross-border one at that. Zeneca and Astra make a good fit in product and geographical terms. They are also roughly the

same size, which means that a genuine merger is at least possible. But the devil is always in the detail. Who will have the upper hand in management terms?

And can the two cultures and nationalities be blended into a harmonious whole? Pharmacia and Upjohn famously degenerated into a snakepit of factional infighting and inter-Continental warring after they merged. From a shareholder value point of view, this is also a far from perfect deal for Zeneca. As the only UK independent of size left, its share price is buoyed by bid hopes. A no premium merger, whatever the cost-cutting benefits and synergies, may seem a poor substitute for an outright takeover.

Certainly Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, will be watching events with a keen interest. Zeneca was his partner of choice before Wellcome, but the price ran away from him and Wellcome was more easily attained.

There is no doubt, however, that he still harbours designs, even though such a takeover would give him almost total hegemony in the UK pharmaceuticals industry. But would he be prepared to pay the price?

News Analysis: Phillips & Drew's active strategy of 'value investing' is keeping it busy Hands-on P&D plays it tough

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THESE ARE busy times at Phillips & Drew (P&D), the management arm of PDS. Today it will see Marston, the regional brewer in which it holds a 16 per cent stake, adjourn plans to securitise its tenanted pub estate due to shareholder pressure.

This may be a costly fiasco, but at least it leaves the way clear for Wolverhampton & Dudley's £262m bid to be discussed more fully, while others may yet enter the fray.

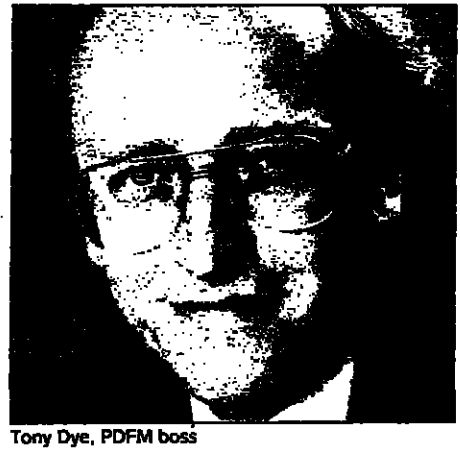
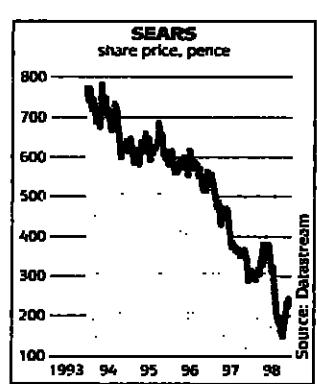
Next week P&D will meet the management of Sears, the struggling retail group in which it has a 25 per cent stake. Having been instrumental in the departure of Liam Strong as chief executive - it regrets not ejecting him earlier - and pushed for the break-up of the group, it has reportedly met with potential bidders for the remaining operation.

P&D has also made it known that it is displeased with the terms of the merger between Siebe and BTR, in which it is a major shareholder. And at Marley, the building materials group, it turned its displeasure into action: it encouraged a hostile bid from John Mansfield and then switched horses to back a white-knight bid from Belgian group Etes, banking a £20m paper profit within a week.

All this has taken place since the beginning of November, and there are hints of more such action to come in the near future. Is this sudden flurry of activity just a coincidence, or is Phillips & Drew adopting a more active approach to fund management?

If it is, it is just a sign of the times, with fund managers being judged on ever-shorter time periods? Or is it a function of the group's philosophy of "value investing"? With a portfolio heavily weighted towards large holdings in out-of-favour smaller and medium

THE PHILLIPS & DREW INVESTMENT HIT-LIST			
Current Activity			
Company	Holding %	Status	
Marston	16	Crunch meeting adjourned today on securitisation of tenanted pub estate	
Sears	24	Will meet management next week about performance. Has received several approaches about possible bids	
BTR	10.8	Unhappy about Siebe merger terms	
Marley	17	Made £20m in a week when Etes trumped John Mansfield hostile bid	
Past Activity			
Somerfield	20	Merged with Kwik Save after successful run post float	
Kwik Save	26	Merger rescued a struggling performer	
Thorn	20	Succumbed to £900m bid from Nomura after dismal run after de-merging from EMI	
Willis Corroon	20	Fell to £851m bid from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts in July	
Sedgewick	22	Taken over by Marsh & McLennan for £1.2bn in August	
Dalgety	23	Major disposal programme returned £675m to shareholders leaving just the Pig Improvement Company	
What next?			
Albert Fisher	12	Stephen Wallis and Neil England have gone. But the shares continue to slide	
Young & Co	20	London brewer with outdated dual voting structure has already had a run-in with major shareholders	
P&O	10	Underperforming ferries group led by Lord Sterling	
Allied Domecq	12.1	Underperforming drinks group tipped for possible shake-up	



Tony Dye, P&D boss

sized companies, is P&D having to be more aggressive to get share prices to reflect the value of the businesses more accurately?

According to Jerzy Wielechowski, P&D's head of corporate governance, the firm has been taking a tougher line on what it regards as underperforming investments. He says: "The timescale has shortened as the fund management industry has become more active. There used to be a rather gentlemanly attitude

in the industry, and sometimes we've left it too long. We look at an investment and if the value is not coming through because of a flawed strategy or because the management isn't getting it right, we will meet them to see why the share price is continuing to underperform. But we are not short-termist. We are happy to be patient. As a value investor you have to be."

P&D's investment strategy has been the subject of much debate in recent years. More

than two years ago Tony Dye, the firm's head of investment, predicted a major correction in world stock markets and P&D's funds switched a significant proportion of assets into cash.

Unfortunately the markets moved relentlessly upwards until the middle of this year, leaving P&D languishing at the bottom of performance tables. Finally in the third quarter of this year it was partially vindicated when it became the top-performing

fund in the City due to the collapse in equity markets and its strong cash position. As a result its funds shrank in value by 7.7 per cent compared with the industry average of 11 per cent. But the subsequent rally may well have caught the firm out again.

Its underweight position in equities has been exacerbated by some of the stocks it has chosen. At first glance its stock picks read like a list of some of the market's biggest duds - Albert Fisher, Sears, Kwik Save, Allied Domecq, Willis Corroon. The list goes on - and on.

But P&D insists value investing has worked and will continue to work. "We are 100 per cent confident it works. Our own track record proves it. Value investing historically has delivered above average results. But there are times when it doesn't work."

Put simply, P&D's value investment philosophy aims to judge whether the fair value of an asset, such as a company, is accurately reflected in its share price. Market value, it says, is affected by many things like investment fads, fashions and rumours, which often have little to do with the underlying business. So P&D looks at the standard measurements of value, such as cash-flow, yield, the quality of the management and the strength of its strategy, and makes a judgement as to whether this is reflected by the stock market.

At the moment, for example, this has led it to shun banking and telecoms in favour of sectors such as food retailing, engineering and building materials. It has avoided the largest companies, which it reckons are over-valued, in favour of smaller and mid cap stocks, which it says will return to favour.

But P&D claims it is being misjudged. It insists it is not a larger, more powerful version of shareholder activists such as UK Active Value, which



Prism, operator of LTS Rail, is losing £30m in subsidy

Prism Rail profits and shares plunge

SHARES IN Prism Rail, which operates four passenger train franchises, plunged by 14 per cent yesterday after the group reported a 90 per cent fall in first-half profits and warned that earnings for the full year would be below expectations.

The group blamed a sharp reduction in the public subsidies it will receive this year; higher penalty payments owing to poor performance and a shortage of drivers.

Prism operates London-Tilbury-Southend Rail - once dubbed the "misery line" - West Anglia Great Northern, which runs trains out of London's Liverpool Street station, Wales and West Country, and Cardiff Railway. Revenue grants for the four franchises

are falling by £30m this year. Pre-tax profits for the period from 1 April to 17 October collapsed from £4.2m to £500,000 after subsidies fell by £14.4m. Prism made a net payment of £2m under the performance regime. Analysts cut full-year forecasts from £13m to £10m.

The main problems occurred in Prism's Wales and West Country franchises, which were hit by driver shortages, poor reliability, an increase in track failures and the poor summer.

Giles Fearnley, chief executive, criticised Railtrack, saying that its performance in Wales and West Country had been "far from satisfactory".

Failed US move cost Lucas £13m

LUCASVARTY's failed attempt to move its headquarters and market listing from London to New York cost the car components and aerospace group £13m, it emerged yesterday.

Shareholders voted down the group's plan to switch domicile to the US last month in a humiliating snub for chief executive Victor Rice. Mr Rice said following the defeat that it was now "business as usual".

LucasVarty is not likely to revive the plan in the near term. However, a spokesman said: "From a strategic standpoint we are undertaking significant deliberations. We will detail the outcome next March when we report full-year results."

There has been speculation that LucasVarty will seek to merge with a rival US engineering business, which could

SEC to investigate claims that LTCM breached rules

AMERICA'S SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has launched a preliminary inquiry into allegations that Long-Term Capital Management breached US securities law by not disclosing the extent of its difficulties when it tried to raise capital from its investors in an 11th-hour attempt to stave off collapse last September.

The hedge fund, which was founded by former Solomon Brothers trader John Meriwether, was bailed out to the tune of \$3.75bn by a consortium of 14 banks on the prompting of the US Federal Reserve in September. They included Barclays and Wall Street finance houses Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch.

The SEC inquiry was prompted by concerns that Mr Meriwether did not make it

clear in a letter to investors asking for more funds that the money was needed to service open market positions worth more than \$100bn and that without fresh money the fund would collapse.

LTCM said yesterday it was satisfied that all the documents it had issued to investors were "in full compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations".

The SEC has yet to decide whether to launch a formal investigation which would allow its enforcement staff to issue subpoenas compelling those involved to give evidence.

"All fund-raising efforts in August and September 1998 were done on a private place-



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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 9 December 1998

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SPORT

Champions' League: Ferguson orders defence to cut out early mistakes that have cost them dearly in the past

United must kick bad habits

Wenger's reserves face test of mettle

BY GLENN MOORE

MONACO TOOK six minutes, Borussia Dortmund five, Juventus took one and Barcelona, last month, scored within 50 seconds. In recent years in the big European matches, Manchester United have had a predilection for conceding early goals.

It is an unfortunate habit and "one that's got to stop", according to the United manager, Alex Ferguson. With his team needing to beat Bayern Munich at Old Trafford tonight to ensure qualification for the Champions' League quarter-finals there is no time like the present to kick the problem. The goals by Dortmund and Monaco, both at Old Trafford, led to United's departure from the last two competitions and Ferguson will be impressing upon his players the need to concentrate straight from the kick-off.

The problem is United are rarely tested in the early stages of domestic matches as most opponents are more intent on keeping a clean sheet than spoiling theirs. In Europe it is a different story. "You could analyse the goals one by one but it comes down to good teams liking to make an early impact," Ferguson said.

It is a weakness that one of tonight's Old Trafford opponents knows all about. Ottmar Hitzfeld was the jubilant Dortmund manager when Lars Ricken effectively ended United's European challenge five minutes into the 1997 quarter-final.

Now Hitzfeld returns with Bayern having imposed an uncommon discipline on the 'Hollywood FC'. As well as leading Group D of the Champions' League, despite losing their first match to Borussia, they are second in the Bundesliga and play the leaders, Bayer Leverkusen, on Saturday.

That, and the fact that Bayern may well go through even if they lose, may help a United side which will enjoy the rare luxury of being at full strength with Ryan Giggs coming into the side which drew 1-1 at Aston Villa on Saturday.

Giggs could be crucial in unpicking a Bayern defence which has only conceded six goals in 10 games and is likely to sit deep to compensate for 37-year-old Lothar Matthäus's lack of pace. Ahead of him Stefan Effenberg, who seems finally to have found the platform he has sought throughout his career, will attempt to take advantage of United's need to push forward by releasing the prolific Brazilian, Giovane Elber, behind the United defence.

To counter, United have a front six which Ferguson regards as the most potent of his dozen years at Old Trafford. United have scored 30 goals in 20 games this season with the partnership of Dwight Yorke (12) and Andy Cole (8) averaging a goal-a-game.

"We have a goal threat," said Ferguson, who looked relaxed as he held



Praying for success: The Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, looks thoughtful yesterday before his side's biggest game this season Martin Rickett

court in one of Old Trafford's many function suites. "If someone had said at the start of this group that we would score eight goals against Barcelona and Bayern Munich in three matches with one more to come you would have said: 'How many suns are there in the sky?'"

Despite the rival attraction of Bayern's simultaneous press conference a few miles away, Ferguson drew an audience of 40 journalists and 11 television camera crews. "It is one of those challenging football matches which makes you a little bit nervous but also excited," he

added. "I'm looking forward to it."

So, according to Elber, are Bayern. "United are very good in attack but we see that they are vulnerable in defence. That's why we have a chance," he said. Hitzfeld believed United had improved from two years ago but added that this Bayern side were better than his Dortmund one - which went on to win the trophy. Matthäus, meanwhile, spoke respectfully of English football and the "90 minutes of fighting".

Dortmund stunned United by winning 1-0 at Old Trafford, thanks to that early Ricken goal, to com-

plete a 2-0 aggregate victory. In this scenario Bayern need only a point and United all three, but given the standings in the other groups the Germans should progress regardless and United will almost certainly go through with a draw as one of the two best runners-up, particularly with their superior goal difference.

Roy Keane, with characteristic simplicity, put it all in perspective. "People have been trying to work out all the variations but if we win we're through - that's what we're aiming for."

Bayern, who are surprisingly making their first visit to Old Trafford, are on £100,000-a-man to qualify. Their hosts are on far less but tonight is about glory not money and, if they can avoid that early goal, United should ensure they are still in line for both when the competition resumes next spring.

When asked if he had decided on his team, Hitzfeld replied: "I will wait until after the last training session. Perhaps overnight I will have a stroke of genius."

Bayern are expected to field Jens Jeremies, Effenberg and

Thomas Strunz in a three-man midfield, with two wing-backs and Matthäus as sweeper behind two central defenders. Elber will spearhead their attack in tandem with either Alexander Zickler or Carsten Jancker.

Mario Basler and Thomas Helmer are expected to be on the bench, while Mehmet Scholl and the Iranian Ali Daei are unavailable because of injury.

Manchester United (Probable, 4-4-2): Schmeichel; Brown, G. Neville, Stam, Irwin; Beckham, Scholes, Keane, Giggs, Cole, Yorke. Bayern Munich (Probable, 1-2-4-3): Kahn; Matthäus; Babbal, Helmer, Strunz, Basler, Jeremies, Effenberg, Lisarazu, Elber, Jancker.

BY BILL PIERCE
in Athens

ARSENE WENGER knew it had to happen sooner or later and he will get a daunting insight tonight into life without the famous defence which has underpinned Arsenal's glory for more than a decade.

But what is already certain to be a Greek tragedy for boss Wenger in the no-win situation of Arsenal's Champions' League swansong against Panathinaikos, could also be the Frenchman's hopes, a glimpse into a new bright Highbury future.

Thirteen of his injury-hit squad will miss the final Group E game. Martin Keown and Remy Garde, fitness tests on groin injuries. That would leave 19-year-old Matthew Upson to step into the boots of Tony Adams, out for six weeks with an agonising back complaint.

The suspended Lee Dixon and injured Nigel Winterburn are also certain to be missing from football's most enduring defensive unit, but Upson is showing typical Arsenal fortitude under fire and insisted: "I seriously believe I'm ready for this. I'll show I've got the same great Arsenal spirit that Tony has."

There could be no more intimidating stage for Upson to prove that one day he could become the new Adams - the Olympic Stadium will be packed with nearly 100,000 hostile Greek fans ready to roar their team through to the quarter-finals.

Panathinaikos, the victims of Arsenal's only Champions' League win at Wembley in September, are licking their lips at the thought of the severely depleted team Wenger must field - no Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars, Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira, Stephen Hughes or Winterburn through injuries. There will also be no Ray Parlour who is suspended after being sent off against Lens at Wembley two weeks ago.

Instead Upson stands by in case of young rookies for only his 11th first-team appearance since moving 18 months ago from Luton, where he played just once in the league and yet was considered such a hot prospect that Arsenal paid £1.5 million for him.

Wenger admits his fears for Upson and all the other inexperienced players he will be forced to use again as stop-gaps. But the 41-year-old defender said: "I came here to learn and make a name for myself. As I could get my chance in a European Cup match and I'm looking forward to it. It's not an ideal situation. The manager knows he's got to change the Arsenal defence sooner or later, but you don't want to have to do it all at once."

"Personally I feel the Adams-Keown partnership is the best around and, hopefully for the club, it will go on a lot longer yet. I've learned a lot from just watching them, and my positional sense is already 100 per cent better since I came to Arsenal."

Nelson Vivas has failed to live up to his billing for Arsenal, but they will need his experience at right-back tomorrow. Wenger may be forced to play a back five for the first time in his two years at Highbury, with Upson on the left of three central defenders. Gilles Grimandi and stand-in captain Steve Bould will be the other two if Keown fails his fitness test - and that could also bring in teenager David Grondin, while Alberto Mendez looks certain to occupy Parlour's right midfield role.

Ronaldo's return set to bring relief to Internazionale

RONALDO IS likely to be in Internazionale's starting line-up for their Champions' League Group C tie away to Austria's Sturm Graz tonight. Ronaldo's return from a recurrence of the knee tendon problems which plagued him during the World Cup finals is a relief for a side still coming to terms with last week's sacking of the coach Gigi Simoni.

The Romanian Mircea Lucescu, who replaced Simoni, is likely to play

the Brazilian, who came on for the final 20 minutes of Inter's 1-1 draw at Vicenza on Sunday, from the start tonight. He will be partnered up front in Graz by Yuri Djorkaeff, who is not yet fully fit and could be substituted by either Chile's Ivan Zamorano or Roberto Baggio.

They are both expected to start on the bench, while in defence, the Nigerian Taribo West may be dropped following his ill-tempered

reaction when substituted by Mikael Silvestre in the weekend's league action.

Sturm Graz are likely to be without five regulars. The midfielders Roman Mählich, Markus Schupp, Mehرداد Minavand and Didier Angibeaud are either injured or ill, and the defender Mario Posch has pulled a groin muscle. The Austrians will welcome back their international midfielder Hannes

Reinmayr who missed the match against Spartak Moscow two weeks ago because of a leg muscle injury.

In Italy, the Argentine Ariel Ortega was suspended by Sampdoria after a drink-driving charge by police. Ortega's compatriot and teammate Gaston Cordoba and the Brazilian Cate were also suspended. The three were questioned by police in the early hours of Monday after they were involved in an

argument at a road junction in the centre of Genoa.

Ortega was charged with driving his Mercedes under the influence of alcohol. His car was impounded and his driving licence confiscated. Cordoba was charged with public order offences after he allegedly screamed abuse at police. Cate was not charged. Sampdoria said all three would be banned for the league match at Lazio on Sunday.

Vyacheslav Koloskov, the embattled president of the Russian Football Union, won his bid yesterday to keep control of Russian football for another five years. Koloskov, blamed by his opponents for a sharp decline in the fortunes of the Russian game, won 52 of the 64 votes cast after a session of the RFS that lasted more than nine hours. His main rival, Nikolai Tolstikh of the Russian Professional Football League, won eight votes.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: GROUP-BY-GROUP GUIDE TO QUARTER-FINAL QUALIFICATION

GROUP A

Croatia Zagreb are second due to the score of their two matches against Ajax (0-0 and 1-0). Olympiakos Piraeus will win the group by beating or drawing against Zagreb. To win the group, Zagreb need to beat Olympiakos with a goal difference of at least three (ie 3-0, 4-1, 5-2 etc.), as the first match between the two teams ended with a 2-0 victory for the Greeks, who also have a higher number of away goals in the overall goal average. However, Zagreb could be helped by Ajax. In fact, by beating Porto, the Dutch would also reach 10 points in the final rankings. In that case the direct matches between all three teams would determine the group winner. Regardless of the goal average in the final rankings, this method would be in Zagreb's favour if they win. Thus, the best Ajax can hope for is second place and a best runners-up slot. The Dutch champions will be without their Finnish striker Jari Litmanen and the Georgian forward Shota Arveladze.

Results: Porto 2 Olympiakos 2; Croatia Zagreb 0 Ajax 0; Olympiakos 2 Croatia Zagreb 0; Ajax 1; Olympiakos 1 Ajax 0; Porto 3 Croatia Zagreb 1. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Porto v Ajax; Croatia Zagreb v Olympiakos.

GROUP B

Galatasaray and Rosenborg can win the group outright. If both teams win, the side winning by the greater margin would win the group, as both sides have recorded the same scores against each other. If both were to win by the same margin with the same scoreline, Galatasaray would advance as they would have the greater number of goals scored. If Rosenborg were to win by the same margin but score more than one goal more than Galatasaray, they would win the group. If the sides were to finish level on every criteria - points, goal difference and goals scored - Rosenborg would win the group on the basis of their greater national association coefficient. If both sides win they will both qualify for the quarter-finals as the second-placed team's tally of 11 points would be sufficient to guarantee at least the runners-up berth. Juventus's only chance to win the group is to beat Rosenborg in their last home match, hoping that Galatasaray lose. In this case Juventus would win the group thanks to the results in the direct matches between the three top teams.

Results: Athletic Bilbao 1 Rosenborg 1; Juventus 2 Galatasaray 2; Galatasaray 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg 1 Juventus 1; Rosenborg 3 Galatasaray 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Juventus 0; Galatasaray 3 Rosenborg 0; Juventus 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg 1 Galatasaray 1; Juventus 1. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Athletic Bilbao v Galatasaray; Juventus v Rosenborg Trondheim.

GROUP C

Internazionale can win the group by beating Sturm Graz in Austria. A draw would be enough for the Italians. Real Madrid draw against Spartak Moscow. With a victory for the Russians, the Italians would still win the group, due to the direct matches against Spartak Moscow (2-1 and 1-1). Real Madrid can only win the group by beating the Russians, and if Internazionale fall to beat Sturm Graz. The same applies for Spartak Moscow. Internationales 1 Sturm Graz 0; Spartak Moscow 2; Spartak Moscow 2 Real Madrid 1; Internazionale 1 Sturm Graz 0. **Results:** Real Madrid 2 Internazionale 0; Sturm Graz 0 Spartak Moscow 2; Spartak Moscow 2 Real Madrid 1; Internazionale 1 Sturm Graz 0. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Real Madrid v Spartak Moscow; Sturm Graz v Internazionale.

Results: Athletic Bilbao 1 Rosenborg 1; Juventus 2 Galatasaray 2; Galatasaray 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg 1 Juventus 1; Rosenborg 3 Galatasaray 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Juventus 0; Galatasaray 3 Rosenborg 0; Juventus 1 Athletic Bilbao 1; Rosenborg 1 Galatasaray 1; Juventus 1. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Athletic Bilbao v Galatasaray; Juventus v Rosenborg Trondheim.

GROUP D

Bayern Munich will win the group with a victory or a draw against Manchester United. On the other hand, United need a victory against the Germans to win the group. Such is United's goal difference - +9 - that, even in the event of a defeat by Bayern, they still have a chance to advance as a best runners-up.

Results so far: Borussia Dortmund 2 Bayern Munich 1; Manchester United 3 Barcelona 3; Borussia Dortmund 0; Bayern Munich 2; Borussia Dortmund 2; Bayern Munich 2; Borussia Dortmund 0; Bayern Munich 2; Borussia Dortmund 3; Manchester United 3. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munich.

GROUP E

The winner of the match between Lens and Dynamo Kiev will win the group. If the two teams draw and Panathinaikos beat Arsenal in the other group match, the Greeks win the group thanks to the results in the direct matches between the three teams. If Panathinaikos do not beat Arsenal, a 0-0 draw would be enough for Lens, thanks to the away goal scored in the other direct match against Dynamo Kiev. With a 1-1 draw, Dynamo would win the group thanks to the higher number of goals scored away from home in the direct matches against Lens. The French club will have an all-time record of 41,000 crowd behind them, but will be without the suspended striker Tony Vairelles.

Results so far: Lens 1 Arsenal 1; Panathinaikos 2 Dynamo Kiev 1; Dynamo Kiev 1; Arsenal 2; Panathinaikos 1; Arsenal 1; Dynamo Kiev 1; Lens 1; Panathinaikos 0; Dynamo Kiev 3; Arsenal 1; Panathinaikos 1; Lens 0; Arsenal 0; Lens 1; Dynamo Kiev 2; Panathinaikos 1. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: Lens v Dynamo Kiev; Panathinaikos v Arsenal.

GROUP F

Kaiserslautern are the first and only team to have already qualified for the quarter-finals. In fact, the goal scored in the last minute of their match against Benfica in Lisbon allowed the Germans to secure the group thanks to the away goal scored in the two direct matches against Benfica (1-0 at home and 1-2 in Lisbon). Benfica must hope that the results in the other five groups will allow them to eventually qualify as one of the two best runners-up. PSV Eindhoven have a much more remote chance of qualifying as a best runners-up, especially at their defence are leaking goals - six conceded in their last two domestic matches. In addition, neither Robert Fuchs nor Jürgen Dirks are eligible to play in Europe.

Results so far: PSV Eindhoven 2 HJK Helsinki 1; Kaiserslautern 1 Benfica 0; Benfica 2 PSV Eindhoven 1; HJK Helsinki 0 Kaiserslautern 0; Kaiserslautern 2 Benfica 0; PSV Eindhoven 1 Kaiserslautern 3; Benfica 2 Kaiserslautern 1. **Remaining fixtures:** Today: PSV Eindhoven v Benfica; Kaiserslautern v HJK Helsinki.

QUALIFICATION

The six group winners will qualify, plus the two best runners-up. Within the groups, should two clubs finish equal on points after the six group matches, the following criteria will be applied to determine placings:

- 1 Greater number of points obtained in matches between the clubs in question.
- 2 Goal difference resulting from the matches between the clubs in question.
- 3 Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the clubs in question.
- 4 Superior goal difference from all matches played.
- 5 Greater number of goals scored. 6 National coefficient at the start of the season.

The two best runners-up, who help make up the eight clubs contesting the quarter-finals, will be decided by these criteria:

- 1 Number of points obtained in group matches.
- 2 Goal difference from all group matches.
- 3 Greater number of goals scored in all group matches.
- 4 Greater number of goals scored away from home.
- 5 National association's coefficient at start of season.
- 6 Individual club's coefficient at start of season.

Many top performers are frustrated with poor testing methods and demand harsher penalties to punish cheats

Authorities 'failing British sport'

INEFFECTUAL GOVERNING bodies that ignore drug abuse are contributing to the common problem of illegal drugs in sport, according to the country's leading sportsmen and women. The Independent's survey of drug use in British sport shows elite sportsmen and women believe a range of drugs are being used and drug testing programmes are failing British sport.

The survey targeted more than 1,300 people from the top levels of sport - the most highly-ranked Lottery-sponsored athletes and swimmers, Premier League and Nationwide League footballers, first-class cricketers, Super League and Premiership One rugby players, leading flat and National Hunt jockeys, tennis players in the British top 40 and weightlifters of international standing. There were more than 300 respondents to the survey.

By NICK HARRIS

Of all those who replied, 13 per cent think steroids are being abused, rising to 47 per cent in rugby league, 31 per cent in rugby union and 16 per cent in athletics. Erythropoietin (EPO), a substance which increases the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity and was at the centre of this summer's Tour de France debacle, is cited as a problem by eight per cent (27 per cent in athletics) and human growth hormone by eight per cent (19 per cent in athletics and 15 per cent in swimming).

Respondents called for improved testing methods and harsher penalties and feel current measures do not go far enough to combat the drugs problem. One 19-year-old rugby union player wrote: "Drugs are widely used in rugby union and officials - I have a feeling this is so

- turn a blind eye." He added that frequent testing needs to be introduced, randomly and without warning, especially in the off-season between April and August. "If a sport does not have a rigorous all-year round drug testing programme, with coverage from 16-years-old to senior level, then there should be a campaign by business sponsors to withdraw support from the sport."

"No government money, including Lottery cash, should be made available to such a sport. Put simply, if the papers do not take up the challenge then the sporting bodies will never act."

Many respondents in rugby echoed his views, calling for more random tests and fines for clubs as well as players to encourage team officials to tackle the problem. In rugby union 62 per cent of respondents felt the laws in their sport were



inappropriate and needed enforcing more effectively. In rugby league and swimming the corresponding figure approached 50 per cent and in athletics it was 64 per cent. A common

complaint in the survey was that testing was virtually non-existent in their experience. "Drug tests should be more frequent," one 30-year-old footballer said. "I have been tested once in 12 years. Testing does deter the use of drugs, although not to the extent it should." A 20-year-old female tennis player who said she has competed at 20 events internationally in the past year, revealed: "I have yet to see drug testers at any tournament." Her experience was not uncommon but testing away from competition is less likely still.

According to figures released by the Sports Council, the number of out of competition tests (conducted with no notice, away from events) in athletics last year was 602. In British football there were just two, in rugby league and cricket one apiece. There were none at all in rugby union, tennis or swimming. Testing

at major events and 'squad testing' - pre-arranged visits to club training sessions - were more widespread (517 individuals in the year in football, 243 in rugby league, 139 in swimming, 126 in cricket and 21 in tennis), but many respondents to the survey called for more.

More than 43 per cent of all respondents called for tighter rules, with many calling for blood tests in place of urine tests. Others went further, and one 34-year-old female athlete wrote: "Testing urine is a joke as distance runners use EPO which is undetectable. Either test blood or you may as well legalise all drugs. Let British athletes lead the way in blood testing by volunteering a blood sample and take a polygraph test and have all the results publicised."

"I bet there would be a reluctance on the part of a lot of athletes to do this. Clean the sport up once and for

all. At the moment I would not encourage any child to take up athletics because of the hypocrisy of some of their so-called sports role models."

Fears that drug abuse could spread were also common. One footballer wrote: "In athletics I think it's out of control. Whenever someone wins a race on the track or comes first on the field I'm now not sure if their win was pure or assisted. I wouldn't like football to go that way, that's why regular testing - every player from every club every two to three weeks - is the only way to deter drug abuse, whether recreational or performance enhancing."

A 22-year-old female swimmer added: "Governing bodies must continue to work hard with science to try to get one step ahead of the drug users, if they really do want to catch them out, which I sometimes wonder."



Swimmer Adrian Turner, 21, trains nine times a week to excel in a sport where, he says, drug-taking is preventable and authorities are slow in acting *Peter Jay*

Cheats are getting away, says Turner

WHEN ADRIAN TURNER heard the head of the International Olympic Committee say there might be case for shortening the list of prohibited substances in sport, his first thought was: "That's the biggest load of rubbish I've ever heard."

The 21-year-old swimmer, a finalist in the 400m individual medley at this year's Commonwealth Games, said: "I felt sick when I heard him say that. He [Juan Antonio Samaranch, who later said all drugs harmful to health should remain on the banned list, but there might be a case for removing others] is the head honcho in the IOC and he was saying 'Take some off the list.' And I thought 'I'm the one who's got to race against these people who use drugs.'"

Like many young British sportsmen and women, Turner feels there are still people cheating in his sport

Swimmer who has only been drug-tested twice in two years claims authorities could easily clean up the pool. *By Nick Harris*

and feels not enough is done to stop it. "There is a fear of extensive testing by governing bodies because a 100 per cent sample might make a mockery of swimming if all of a sudden they came up with a 30 per cent positive test rate. Every time they catch someone, it's good for us clean athletes but it's also bad for swimming in general. People will say: 'here's another one in swimming, how bent is swimming?' The swimming federations do have a vested interest in keeping the number of positive tests to a minimum."

Turner added that some responsibility should lie with the rich corporate sponsors who pay huge amounts to be associated with the glamorous side of sport. "It seems

scarily easy to me to be able to clean up a sport but no one seems to be making a move to do so. I don't get it."

Although tested twice while in Kuala Lumpur at the Commonwealth Games, Turner said testing in general leaves much to be desired. "Before the Games I hadn't been tested for two years. I wasn't tested in training, wasn't tested at any competitions. I could have been using any substances and I wasn't tested. It's not good enough. If I could get away with it, how many others are there that might not be as clean as I am?"

Drug use is a common topic of discussion within swimming, Turner said, as are the temptations to

bend the rules. He recalled an incident at the European Championships last year, less than 10 months after a Russian swimmer had been allowed to keep an Olympic medal despite having tested positive for a steroid masking agent. "My room-mate said to me: 'if you could take something that would make sure you got a guaranteed Olympic gold, and it had no side effects and you knew no one would ever catch you, would you take it?' And my instant reaction was 'of course not.' But my room-mate said 'I think you're lying mate' and I can see what he means."

The difference between temptation and acting on temptation, Turner

said, was that he could not, with a clear conscience, happily beat someone by using illegal means. A life of training - he started competing at 12 and now trains up to nine times a week, swimming up to 10,000m a time - has also made him feel success should be earned, not merely swallowed.

"I've experienced winning, and the nightmare of losing. I couldn't force that nightmare upon them purely because I put a chemical into my body that they did not have."

He added: "I've competed in China and seen how little in the way of assets the man in the street has, and how a winning athlete in that country is comparable in Western terms to a millionaire national hero. The phrase 'nothing to lose' is startlingly applicable. So why do our punishments make it even more so?"

Verroken striving for zero defect

In spite of what the prophets of doom say, there are strides being made in the war against drugs. *By Mike Rowbottom*

THE ADVERTISEMENT - of which Michele Verroken, director of the UK Sports Council's Anti-Doping programme - had a copy, was problematic. Waving the article with an expression that tested positive for traces of exasperation, Verroken pondered the best tactics.

The item claimed to purify urine "for four to five hours". Now why would anyone want to do such a thing? Would it, by any chance, be to avoid banned substances being detected in the event of having to give a urine sample to an officer working under Verroken's direction? Analysis was required to see if the product lived up to its claims.

But if it didn't - would it be better not to say? So that anyone attempting to use it for cheating, rather than any purpose of random curiosity, would be exposed? And what if it did live up to its claims? Would that then require another loop of explanation or another long chemical name to be appended to the bulging list of substances and practices currently proscribed by the International Olympic Committee?

Such tortuous mental processes have become second nature to Verroken as she has attempted to second guess any British sporting protagonists who might have a mind for a spot of illicit chemical assistance.

How successful is she? Verroken can never know. That is the nature of the game she is playing - testers in pursuit of cheaters where even positive results are ambiguous. Do they mean success - can it be assumed that all those not testing positive are innocent? Not for sure.

Last year, under Verroken's auspices, the UK Sports Council doping programme carried out 4,574 tests, 3,752 of them in this country.

The samples, analysed by the Drug Control Centre in Chelsea, yielded results that were 98.3 per cent negative.

Of the 79 cases where irregularities were reported, more than half were for stimulants. Anabolic agents, such as steroids, accounted for 16.5 per cent, refusals or non-availability 17.7 per cent, and marijuana 10.1 per cent.

That could be the national picture. But perhaps it will look very different when tests for the new vogue of hormone supplements, HGH and EPO, are found and introduced. In the meantime, Verroken's task is to marshal her forces as best she may.

One certainty however is that figure of around 4,000 tests, which has been the pattern for the last 10 years, is going to increase.

After seven years of pleading to the Government - which supplies all but £190,000 of the unit's £1m annual budget - has allowed them to go ahead and seek sponsorship for additional testing from national sporting governing bodies.

"It has been a turning point," she

said. "I feel very pleased about that because I hear what athletes are saying about wanting more testing." There are plans already being laid for blood testing to be introduced in time for the 2000 Olympics.

In the meantime, however, the testers must rely upon urine samples. There are, however, a number of new approaches which Verroken and her colleagues are considering in that area.

The first is of DNA sampling, to find out more about the urine's make-up and to confirm it is that of the intended donor. Another option, not widely available, is to store urine samples and produce a chemical profile of each competitor. Such a method, Verroken says, would reveal otherwise undetectable irregularities within a series of tests, even if each one had proved negative.

It is this kind of profile, indicating unusual variations in testosterone, which saw charges levelled against Mary Decker-Slaney this year.

But Verroken points out that such a system could also act as a safeguard for an athlete who shows up a surprising positive, perhaps abroad. They would be able to call on their profile as a case for the defence.

The third variation on current practice being considered is testing urine samples for age, to ensure that they are not simply stored samples which have been catheterised into a competitor's bladder before a test.

Of the tests carried out this year, a total of 877 were done out of competition. In theory, this means no notice, a knock on the door, a hand on the shoulder and accompaniment until the sample is produced. In practice, such instant opportunities do not always present themselves, although Verroken insists the majority of such testing has been either at no-notice or within one hour.

Unusual behaviour in those requested to comply is noted. There are those who become nervous, or try to delay giving a sample.

In such cases, random testing becomes targeted testing. As in the case of the Irish Olympic gold medalist Michelle Smith, the testers will make it their business to return.

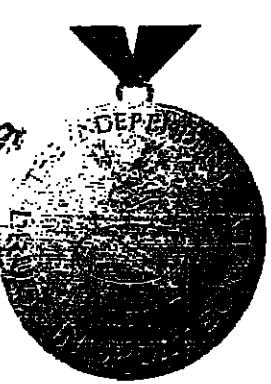
Verroken's take on the booming phenomenon of creatine echoes the BOA line.

"We get a lot of enquiries about creatine," she said. "A lot of people are concerned about it. Of course, it is not prohibited. But we are talking carefully to the people who know best - the sports nutritionists and physiologists."

Apart from doubts over possible long-term side-effects, Verroken points to another worrying factor - "maybe you have found yourself not improving in performance, so your answer is to change your level of creatine. That's the danger, not just of creatine, but of anything that comes along as the so-called new wonder drug."



Verroken: Drug-buster



What performance-enhancing drugs have you used?									
Figures are percentages of respondents' replies									
	Anabolic agents e.g. steroids	Caffeine-loaders	Diuretics	Narcotic analgesics e.g. morphine	Peptide hormones e.g. EPO	Stimulants e.g. ephedrine, amphetamines	Testosterone		
Athletics	0	14	1	1	0	1	0		
Cricket	0	17	0	17	0	0	0		
Football	0	15	9	6	0	7	0		
Horse racing	0	31	8	10	0	5	0		
Rugby league	0	31	0	0	0	15	15		
Rugby union	4	35	0	4	0	0	4		
Swimming	0	9	0	2	0	0	0		
Tennis	0	4	0	10	0	0	0		
Weightlifting**	20	40	10	10	0	10	10		
Overall	1	16	5	5	0	3	1		

*Jockeys **Includes powerlifting

The temptations									
Figures are percentages of respondents' replies									
	Athletics	Cricket	Football	Horse racing	Rugby league	Rugby union	Swimming	Tennis	Weightlifting**
Have you ever been offered performance-enhancing drugs?	11	11	11	0	46	8	2	23	30
Would you take performance-enhancing drugs if they were allowed?	13	17	26	10	46	39	15	23	10
Overall	9								20

*Jockeys **Includes powerlifting

What percentage of competitors in your sport do you believe take performance-enhancing drugs?				
Figures are percentages of respondents' replies				
	None	Up to 30 per cent	30-60 per cent	More than 60 per cent
Athletics	3	61	9	20
Cricket	61	17	5	17
Football	35	56	0	0
Horse racing	85	15	0	0
Rugby league	0	77	23	0
Rugby union	8	81	0	4
Swimming	0	41	0	9
Tennis	41	50	0	30
Weightlifting**	0	50	0	20
Total	25	54	5	12

*Jockeys **Includes powerlifting

...and what are the drugs you believe competitors in your sport are using?									
Figures are percentages of respondents citing particular drugs									
	Caffeine-loading	Diuretics	EPO	HGH*	Steroids	Stimulants	Testosterone		
Athletics	1	0	27	19	16	7	3		
Cricket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Football	0	0	0	0	0	4	0		
Horse racing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rugby league	0	0	0	0	46	15	0		
Rugby union	0	0	0	0	31	4	0		
Swimming	0	0	4	15	9	2	0		
Tennis	0	0	0	4	0	0	0		
Weightlifting***	0	0	0	0	40	10	0		

*Human growth hormone **Jockeys ***Includes powerlifting

Are the drugs regulations in your sport appropriate?			
Figures are percentages of respondents' replies			
	Yes	No they need to be tightened	No they need to be relaxed
Athletics	33	64	3
Cricket	89	11	0
Football	65	26	9
Horse racing	100	0	0
Rugby union	38	62	0
Rugby league	46	46	8
Swimming	52	48	0
Tennis	73	27	0
Weightlifting	20	80	0
Total	54	43	3

*Jockeys ** Includes powerlifting

Do you believe performance-enhancing drugs are widespread in your sport?

Figures are percentages of respondents' replies

	Yes	No	Don't know
Swimming	65	33	2

*Swimmers were the first sportsmen and women to be polled in our survey. In order to seek more detailed information, the wording of this question was subsequently changed to the more specific question above used for other sports

These findings are compiled from responses to a questionnaire The Independent sent to more than 1,300 leading British sportsmen and women. There were more than 300 responses. The results reflect experiences of competitors in nine sports: athletics and swimming (leading Lottery-funded competitors from both sports), cricket (players from first-class counties), football (Premier League and Nationwide League), horse racing (leading jockeys), rugby league (Super League), rugby union (Premiership One), tennis (all Britons in top world 1,000 and weightlifting (international level). In two

sports, cycling and rowing, the governing bodies declined the invitation to take part. In boxing and snooker the response rates fell below 10 per cent and the results are not included. Participants were able to reply anonymously, but were invited to give their gender and age.

TOMORROW
RUGBY'S DRUG PROBLEM

Ramprakash sets himself up as target

MODERN CRICKET tours have no time for sympathy these days and just hours after England had drawn their game against Victoria, Graham Thorpe was winging his way back to London. But if that wasn't alarming enough for one day a nose to nuzzle confrontation between Mark Ramprakash and the 6ft 10in tall Ashley Gilbert added an unnecessarily controversial note to the annual day's play.

While Thorpe was busy packing his bags for the flight home, Ramprakash, rarely the coolest of customers, was off-loading his own verbal baggage after Dean Headley had bounced the tall bowler first ball. On the previous day, when England had led, Gilbert had sledged Ramprakash, giving the Middlesex captain a double dose of venom when he got him mistiming a pull shot to mid-wicket while on 33.

Whatever was said on that occasion - allegedly it was no more colourful than a series of Anglo-Saxon expressions - it clearly niggled away at Ramprakash, who ran in from cover to have his say. Gilbert and Headley having already exchanged, presumably, differing viewpoints.

Although part and parcel of the game in Australia, the intensity with which Ramprakash took his point went beyond the normal bluster and it needed Alec Stewart, the England captain, to step in and defuse it.

Later Stewart tried to play the whole thing down by calling it the "Little and Large show", claiming that "it looked a lot worse than it was".

Despite the testosterone, it probably did, and neither um-

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Melbourne

England 373 & 207-5 dec
Victoria 300 & 245-8
Match drawn

pire saw fit to lodge a code of conduct report. But if Ramprakash's actions were not sanctioned by authority, they will not have gone unnoticed by Australia, who are merciless at exploiting an opponent's weaknesses, be it emotional or technical. As Ramprakash has battled well against them in the Tests, some serious sledging could well be in the offing.

Curiously, emotion was the one thing largely missing when the England management announced Thorpe's departure. While his team-mates teased and tempted Victoria into chasing a target of 280, the Surrey man gave a curiously matter-of-fact press conference. "The Ashes is the biggest series we get to play in and it's a big disappointment to take no further part," Thorpe said. "Obviously, I'd have liked to help the team get back into the series, but when your time's up you have to go and I wish the lads well."

Including A tours, Thorpe has represented England on each of the last nine winter tours. It is a vast amount of playing and travelling to have undertaken and any disappointment may well have been cancelled out by a subconscious feeling of relief.

The impact on England's morale, if not devastating, could not have come at a worse time, and England's hopes of clawing one back in Adelaide will be that

bit harder without their nuggly left-hander to oversee the middle order. Surprisingly for a tour where little has gone right and bad backs have been as common as bad batting, no replacement has been summoned.

It is a risky situation to be in and England's only contingency should a batsman be injured in the next day or so, is to call on someone already playing in the general area. Adam Hoggie, currently in Perth, and Vince Wells, busy playing in New Zealand, are two players mentioned by Stewart who think that particular bill.

Bodies can only stand so much, something administrators with their plans of increasing the amount of international cricket do not seem to understand. But if things are not likely to improve over the short term – the ECB plans to play up to seven Tests and at least five one-day internationals from the year 2000 – Thorpe is determined to be part of England's future and he scotched suggestions that this might be his last appearance at Test level.

"I don't think I'm at the age for hanging my boots up yet," he said. "It's really a question of sitting down and going back to the workshop and getting it right. It doesn't feel as chronic as it felt before I had the operation, so with time and effort I plan to put in, I hope to get there as soon as possible."

Thorpe's condition, described by the England physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, as "non-specific lower back pain", comes from instability and weakness in the lower back, something he will have to improve with strengthening exercises.



John Thorpe (centre) announces that his tour is over



Victoria's Ashley Gilbert (right) and England's Mark Ramprakash engage in a frank exchange of views *Reuters*

But if the match provided a recent workout before Friday's test, it has not narrowed down many options, and apart from Thorpe's injury bringing John Crawley back into the frame, England are probably no closer to playing a spinner in Adelaide than they were at Perth.

Robert Croft may have taken three wickets, but his efforts were not those of a spinner with the ability to bowl outside in

the last innings of a game. Indeed, Croft was so erratic and unchallenging that Stewart kept Croft on when he wanted to keep Victoria in the hunt after they had lost wickets.

Unless he plans to do the same to Australia, Stewart is probably better off playing four seamers, with Headley, who bowled well against Victoria, coming in for the erratic Dominic Cork.

Final day of tour; England won toss
ENGLAND – First Innings 373 A
 Steward 126, M R Rampalkash 78,
 A Hick 67.
VICTORIA – First Innings 300 (S
J Craig 83no, P J Roach 80; D W Headley
5-58).
ENGLAND – Second Innings 207 for
5 dec (J P Crawley 68).

VICTORIA – Second Innings
 M P Moter c Hick b Hollioake
 J L Amberger c sub b Headley
 G R Vimpani low b Fraser7
 'B J Hodge c sub b Croft5
 J L Amberger c sub b Croft5

SCOREBOARD

J M Davidson c Hick b Croft.....	3
R Bakker st sub b Ramprakash.....	30
P J Roach not out	24
B Williams c Fraser b Croft.....	4
A S Gilbert not out	3
Extras (lb2 nb2)	4
Total (for 8, 66.65 overs).....	245
Fall: 1-3, 2-33, 3-111, 4-156, 5-156, 6-211, 7-216, 8-232.	
Did not bat: M W Inniss.	
Bowling: Headley 17.5-6-54-2;	
Fraser 12-2-33-1; Hollisake 10-1-40-1;	
Croft 20-3-85-3; Ramprakash 7-0-	

Umpires: T A Davis and G D T Morris.

Welsh county sign up Newell

BY MARK PIERSON

LAMORGAN, the 1997 county champions, have reinforced their middle order by signing the Sussex batsman Keith Newell on a two-year contract. Newell, 26, will fill the void left by Tony Cottee, who crossed to the opposite direction last month when he brought to an end his career with the Welsh county by signing a three-year deal with Sussex.

Newell's first-class best of 35 came against the West Indians in 1995 and last night he said: "I'm delighted to be joining Glamorgan. They have a very good side and have big plans for the ground and for next season."

Matthew Maynard, said: "We have been looking to strengthen the squad with a couple of signings and I am delighted that Keith has agreed to join us. We feel there is a tremendous wealth of talent coming through at Glamorgan, but if there is a player we feel will add something to the squad we will always show an interest."

The all-rounder Mark Alayne was yesterday re-appointed as Gloucestershire's captain for a third season. Kent have signed a club record £400,000 sponsorship deal with the brewers Shepherd Neame to take them through to the end of the 2001 season.

Aamir Sohail will remain captain of Pakistan for the remaining two Tests against Zimbabwe despite the furore after his side's seven-wicket first Test defeat. The Pakistan Cricket Board voted 9-3 to keep Aamir in charge despite criticism from the public and media since Zimbabwe won in Harare last month. Their overseas Test victory.

The Australian umpire Darrell Hair is threatening legal action against Sri Lanka's cricket board president, Thilange Kumathipala, alleging that he accused Hair of bias during a row over Muttiah Muralitharan.

The Sri Lankan spinner's action came under scrutiny in 1995 when he was no-balled seven times by Hair for throwing. In a recent book, Hair described Muralitharan's action as "diabolical". Hair recently made himself unavailable for the limited-overs series between Australia, England and Sri Lanka. His decision came after Sri Lankan cricket authorities had asked an Australian Cricket Board to ban him from umpiring their matches.

Soldini conquers conditions to take lead

ON OVERNIGHT burst of hard work and speed saw Italy's Giovanni Soldini in Fila take the lead from Marc Thiercelin's somewhere as the Around the World fleet went south into the roaring Furies three days into the second leg from Cape Town to Auckland.

In yesterday's buffeting conditions, Soldini recorded speeds of up to 30 knots in his 60-foot boat and is piling on the pressure as he seeks to reduce the deficit from the first leg from Charleston when he finished

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

five days behind the winner Mike Golding.

The rough weather is causing some anxiety, particularly to Isabelle Autissier, one of the pre-race favourites. She reported problems to the port side of the keel on PRB, which forced her to turn north for comfort and safety as she consulted the boat's designer and builder in France. She then re-

sumed course confident that she would not lose the keel, but annoyed at the delay.

"I am expecting to be told that I must work with only the starboard hydraulic ram which controls the angle of the keel," she said. "I am fed up with these crises. I would like to sail a normal leg for once."

Britain's Josh Hall, who is in fifth place, reported from Garmore that he is "hanging on for the ride. These are scary machines down here on your own. My top speed today was 30

boats with the boat definitely in charge. I would be lying if I did not admit to a high level of fear and trepidation. I know how easily the boat could wipe out the smallest thing went wrong."

Golding's Team Group 4 is within sight of Soldini and Thiercelin as 10 miles cover the top four boats, with Hall a further 53 miles behind. "It's great to see them surfing along at 20 knots plus," Golding said, and he also recounted a radio conversation with Thiercelin

which the Frenchman "sounded relieved to have the night over". As Golding pointed out, if Thiercelin, a Vendée Globe veteran, is finding the going tough, then it is hard for all of them.

However, the former SAS officer, Mike Garside, is making light of the conditions and is romping away at the head of the Class II 50-footers in Magellán Alpha. He has pulled out a 65-mile gap on the second-placed Jean-Pierre Mouligne, who won the first leg in Cray Valley.

Brown's tough challenge

BRITAIN'S TOP three distance runners will be competing in the 1999 Flora London Marathon on 18 April, it was announced yesterday.

The British 10,000 metres record holder, Jon Brown, Paul Evans, who was third in the 1996 marathon, and Richard Nerurkar will be among the 30,000 runners.

Brown, who just missed out on a bronze at the European Championships, will be keen to win the battle of the Britons, but he could have a tough task

ATHLETICS

against Evans, who was fifth in the recent Great North Run, and Nurkurt, placed eighth in the European Championships.

Abel Anton of Spain and Catherine McKiernan are the defending champions, and the strong field also includes Ronaldo de Costa of Brazil, the fastest marathon runner ever. Organisers have reported a 15 per cent increase in applications to around 90,000.

Ben Johnson's latest request

be reinstated as a sprinter is been directed to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports, which is seeking about \$9,000 from the federal government to cover costs of a hearing.

Johnson, 37, has not competed since receiving a lifetime suspension from the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1993 after a second positive drug test. Reinstatement by Athletics Canada would allow Johnson to race domestic meets.

1.30: (2m 6f 110yds mares novice hurdle)

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

FIFTY YEARS OF three-day eventing in Britain, starting with the Olympic Games of 1948 and the inaugural event at Badminton the following year, are celebrated with a wonderful selection of photographs in *Riding for Gold* (Compass Equestrian, £29.95).

Originally conceived as a written history with illustrations, the book changed direction to a pictorial record with when its author, Jane Pon-tifax, was left with limited time because of illness. Her text is therefore succinct but always pertinent. The photographs, among which the author once

again conspicuous by their absence. Mary King, out of competitive action for most of the year while preparing to give birth to her son, Frederick, has also produced William and Mary (David and Charles, \$16.99).

This delightful account of King's long partnership with the handsome bay gelding, King William, naturally has a wealth of superb photographs to remind us that both horse and rider are eminently photogenic.

The dust-jacket describes William and Mary as "the world's most successful great-

Eventing produces a real winner

originally conceived as a written history with illustrations, the book changed direction to a pictorial record with text when its author, Jane Ponciffe, was left with limited time because of illness. Her text is therefore succinct but always pertinent. The photographs among which the early ones are particularly evocative) are confined to British events and, almost exclusively, to the over- and home successes of British riders. Do not expect to find a photograph of New Zealand's Blyth Tate, the current world and Olympic champion. He gets a couple of mentions, but no picture.

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The dust-jacket describes William and Mary as "the world's most successful eventing partnership", but most of us would have to regard that as a sad "what-might-have-been" rather than a reality. The horse has never been less than magnificent across country, but his tendency tolobber show jumps has let him down at major events.

With the benefit of hindsight, King believes that William's greatest triumph when winning Badminton in

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Today: Equestrianism

1992 was also his undoing. The crowd gave William a rousing reception during his ap of honour, and there were endless photo calls and press conferences. I loved it all, but we now know that it really upset William." The great horse "was never able to settle down at a major three-day event again."

Two books by Kiwi event riders were published earlier in the year: *So Far, So Good* by Mark Todd (Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £18.99) and *Kiwi Magic* by Andrew Nicholson and David and Charles, £27.99).

While Todd produced a diverting autobiography, which was reviewed in these pages in May, Nicholson's contribution was written in collaboration with

The co-authors have made excellent use of photographic sequences by Kit Houghton to explain what horse and rider are doing in each frame. Cross-country schooling sessions with some of the young horses in Nicholson's yard are particularly revealing. You can see the youngsters gain in confidence under the rider's sure touch.

Elizabeth Furth raises photography to an art-form in *Visions of Dressage* (J A Allen, 2029.95), which follows her books on show jumping and eventing to complete a trilogy of equestrian "visions". Furth is also responsible for the text, which includes interviews with riders from the great centres of classical riding (notably the Spanish Riding School of Vienna) as well as leading competitors.

Furth includes the two great exponents of dressage today: Isabell Werth of Germany and

van Grunsven of The Netherlands. Both seem happy that away about their sport the special relationship they enjoy with their top horses.

Werth says that riding Gigo feels a bit like coming home because we know each other so well. We share a very emotional bond."

van Grunsven has similar feelings about Bonfire: "Our understanding for one another is very deeply rooted when we are in the arena I feel the feeling that we are one."

Jany Wanless has built up following through teaching biomechanical principles underpin good riding at "any level" and she continues to expound her theories in *For the Good of the Rider* (Kent Press, £19.95). The new stable has produced their *Endurance Riding* (Kent Press, £15), which is the 41st book in the series of *Threshold* pure Guides.

Genevieve Murphy

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Houllier in bid to thwart Arsenal

GERARD HOULLIER, the Liverpool manager, is close to signing the French centre-half Cyril Deshayes for a £2m deal to prevent Arsenal Wenger taking him to Arsenal.

The highly-rated Marseille defender is in talks with Liverpool and could seal an agreement before the end of the week. Houllier is even willing to leave the French Under-21 international at Marseille for the rest of the season before bringing him to Anfield next summer.

Wenger, looking to rebuild his defence next season, has also been in contact with Marseille about the player.

Houllier is also considering an offer to take Cameroon centre-half Rigobert Song on trial. He is out of favour at Salernitana, but he needs a work permit, which is a major stumbling block. Liverpool already have two work-permit players and will be looking to take them up to the maximum of three. If the Croatia Zagreb winger Maric agrees to a £3m deal this week, Liverpool's interest in Song will fade.

David O'Leary will build his team around his first signing, David Batty, and does not mind upsetting whoever has to make way for the England midfielder.

The Leeds manager confirmed that Batty, who signed yesterday for £4.4m from Newcastle, will make his debut for his hometown club against Coventry on Monday, shunting into the sidelines one member of the Leeds team who overwhelmed West Ham 4-0 last weekend. Batty has signed a four-and-a-half-year contract with the club he left for Blackburn in 1993.

"I am not going to play games with people, David will play on Monday if he is fit."

FOOTBALL

By Alan Nixon

O'Leary said: "If that upsets someone who has been in the team then it is tough. I don't care what the players think. I am trying to build something that is going to last for the next few years. I will spend money when I think it is right, the responsibility doesn't bother me."

O'Leary faces a dilemma in deciding who will make way for Batty. Midfielder David Hopkin is in his best form since arriving at Leeds, while Lee Bowyer has scored three goals in the last three games. The teenage striker Alan Smith and Norwegian utility man Alfie Haaland are favourites to be sacrificed.

Batty's signing brought to an end a protracted saga which had left the player, who celebrated his 30th birthday last Wednesday, contemplating his future in the game after Newcastle turned down Leeds' initial £4m bid.

After being told he would never play for the Magpies again after he handed in a transfer request to manager Rudd Gullit, Batty was relieved to finally seal the deal on his return to Leeds.

"It has been a frustrating time," he said. "When I read the rumours that Leeds were initially interested I just hoped they were true. Certain things may have changed but it feels like I have never been away. There is a buzz about the place and these are exciting times."

"Although the last two weeks have been hard, as a whole Rudd handled it very well. I enjoyed playing with Newcastle but all my thoughts are for Leeds now. We have a young team and a young manager and this probably the most exciting period at the club for about five years."



David Batty (left) and Leeds manager David O'Leary are all smiles after the midfielder's £4.4m move from Newcastle yesterday. Andrew Varley

Miller departure was 'mutual'

THE ABERDEEN chairman, Stewart Milne, last night insisted he had not sacked Alex Miller after the manager's year-long reign at Pittodrie was brought to an abrupt end earlier in the day.

Milne stressed that the Scotland assistant manager's departure "with immediate effect" was a mutual decision arrived at after two days of extensive discussions and soul-searching.

Milne confirmed at a hastily-convened news conference that Miller's increasingly inglorious battle to arrest the club's slump in fortunes was at an end after a run of just one win in 16 games.

The 3-0 home defeat by

Dundee United late last month brought pressure to bear on the 49-year-old Miller and Saturday's humiliating 4-0 defeat at Kilmarnock appears to have been the last straw.

That result sent Aberdeen to the bottom of the Premier League and left Milne contemplating a change of manager for the second time in just over 12 months after Roy Aitken's departure last November.

Miller appeared to have steadied the ship as the Dons retained their top-flight status last year and briefly topped the new SPL at the beginning of this term.

Rut an overall record of just 11 wins from 43 games had already left the former Hibernian

manager facing the wrath of disgruntled supporters unhappy at the team's dour style under his command.

Chairman Milne was forced to deny last week that a group of wealthy local businessmen - who form the affluent AFC Club at Pittodrie - were poised to launch a takeover bid unless action was taken to tackle the club's plight.

Miller appears to have been made the scapegoat, but Milne was anxious to stress his exit was by mutual consent. "I would like to make it clear I haven't sacked the manager but that we have agreed that it is right that he moves on at this time," he said.

"We have spoken for some

time over the past two days discussing matters and we have come to the conclusion, jointly, that it is in everybody's interests that Alex parts company with us."

"From a personal point of view, I am obviously very disappointed at the way things have turned out. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alex for all the hard work he has put into this club and I wish him all the very best in his future career."

Miller, who has resisted the temptation to complain about the lack of substantial funds available for team rebuilding in recent weeks, was happy to concur with his former chairman.

"After a substantial amount

of talking and soul-searching, both the chairman and myself came to the conclusion that it would be in everybody's interests if I left the club," he said. "I have enjoyed my time here at Pittodrie and I wish Aberdeen every success in the future."

Milne confirmed that the assistant manager, Paul Hegarty, and the director of football, Keith Burkinshaw, will look after team affairs while the Pittodrie board ponders its choice of successor.

"They are both vastly experienced and they will continue to look to bring players in who they feel will be valuable additions to our squad," said Milne. Hegarty may be considered as a contender for the vacant job.

Eight charged over betting scam Di Lella angers Fulham

HONG KONG'S graftbusters have charged eight people, including a police sergeant, yesterday with illegal soccer bookmaking in connection to an alleged match-fixing scam by local players.

The eight are alleged to have conspired in operating an illegal bookmaking centre covering both local and overseas soccer matches, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said in a statement.

They were due to appear in court last night on a total of five charges, including conspiracy

to engage in illegal bookmaking, the ICAC said.

The police sergeant, Tse Ping-wang, 43, faced two charges of bribing police superintendents for tip-offs about police raids on bookmaking centres.

The illegal bookmaking case came to light when the anti-corruption watchdog was investigating an alleged match-fixing case, an ICAC spokeswoman said. Last month, five Hong Kong soccer players were charged with match-fixing, including the rigging of a World Cup qualifier.

The ICAC brought a total of 17 charges against the five men - Lee Wai-man and Lok Kar-wan, both 25, Chan Chi-keung, 28, Wai Kwan-lung, 22 and Lau Chi-yuen, 21.

The trial of four of the players - Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai - will begin on 12 January. The trial of Lau will start next March.

Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai were accused of conspiring with jailed national striker, Chan Tsz-kong, to ensure Hong Kong lost by two goals to Thailand in a World Cup qualifying match on 9 March 1997,

and win HK\$200,000 (£16,050) from bets placed with a bookmaker. Hong Kong lost the game 3-0.

Chan Tsz-kong was sentenced in July to 12 months' jail after being convicted of rigging the match against Thailand.

The Asian Football Confederation have decided to hold an emergency meeting next week to discuss a decision by Fifa, football's world governing body, to award just four places to the continent at the World Cup in 2002 - two of which will go to joint hosts Japan and South Korea.

HARTLEPOOL HAVE launched an investigation into an incident in the players' lounge at Fulham after their 4-2 FA Cup second round defeat on Saturday.

The club have been contacted by Fulham amid claims of a clash between the Argentinian midfielder Gustavo Di Lella and Fulham's Simon Morgan.

Mick Tait, the Hartlepool manager, said: "We have received correspondence from Fulham. I did not witness the incident and want to find out exactly what happened. If any action needs to be taken, then we will take it."

Di Lella was substituted 75 minutes into the game at Craven Cottage with a cut eye, and later claimed that he had been hurt when he was stamped on by Morgan, who went on to score his side's third goal.

"I was on the floor and he just stamped on me," said Di Lella. "I was very dazed and had to go off even though I didn't want to. It is all right now, but I was not happy."

Fulham released a statement which read: "Following Fulham's FA Cup second round tie with Hartlepool on Saturday

an incident occurred in one of the club's lounges."

"Fulham have sent a full account of the incident to Hartlepool United - who we understand have already taken disciplinary action against one of their players - and to the Football Association."

John Ward, the former Bristol City manager, is set to become Colin Lee's assistant at Wolves. Ward, who lost his job with City last month, will move to Molineux on a non-contract basis. He was due to meet Lee last night at a reserve match with Sheffield Wednesday.

Woking keen on another scalp

THERE IS much uncertainty concerning the make-up of the fifth round of the EFA men's and women's cup draws following the postponement of a number of fourth round games. But it reappears go according to form, the highlight of the fifth round ties will be the visit of women's Premier League leaders Ipswich to last year's Cup winners, Clifton Scottish Life.

First, however, Clifton have to overcome South League leaders Dulwich.

Giant-killers Woking, who

HOCKEY

By Bill Colwill

Two, will relish the chance of another scalp with the visit of First Division Bradford.

In the men's competition, last season's Cup and League winners Cannock, providing they overcome Harrogate, have another home tie against junior opposition.

Old Georgians, who struck 16 goals in their League game against Camberley - with Gary Nulton (6) and Mahmood Bhatti (4) doing the bulk of the damage - are the visitors. Along with Epsom, Old Georgians

have a 100 per cent record at the top of the Surrey Hampshire South League.

Old Cranleighans, who defeated Premier League Bourneville in the shock of the fourth round, have another home tie against EHL Division One leaders Lewes.

FIFTH ROUND CUP DRAWS: Men: Cannock or Harrogate v Old Georgians; Cannock v Sheffield or East Grinstead; Hounslow or Norton v Cranleighans; Old Cranleighans v Lewes; Old Cranleighans v Doncaster; Reading v Bowdon or Loughborough Students; Southgate v Northampton Saints; Teddington v Wimbledon. (ties to be played on 17 January). Women: Aldridge v Otton Teraquists; Billingham or Eastbourne v Fyffes; Leicester or Sheffield; Canterbury v Doncaster; Chesham v Loughborough Students; Dulwich or Clifton Scottish Life v Ipswich; Epsom v Blackburn Northern or Slough; Highgate v Sherwood v Tulse Hill; Woking v Bradford. (ties to be played on 14 February).

SPORTING DIGEST

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Tampa Bay's Trent Dilfer threw for 181 yards and two touchdowns in a dramatic 24-22 win over Green Bay Packers. Tampa's triumph means they have now secured a play-off berth.

NFL Tampa Bay 24 Green Bay 22.

BASEBALL

Fears about the health of the legendary player Joe DiMaggio, who is recovering from lung cancer surgery, have eased following another remarkable recovery by the 84-year-old. Doctors said on Sunday that DiMaggio was in a grave condition after contracting a lung infection, but it was announced yesterday that the infection had subsided rapidly and the American Hall of Famer was again in better health.

The Arizona Diamondbacks have signed the free agent centerfielder Steve Finley on a four-year contract worth around \$20m. Finley's arrival takes the ambitious Phoenix-based outfit's close-season spending on new players to over \$115m.

CRICKET

Glamorgan, the 1997 county champions, have reinforced their middle order by signing the batsman Keith Newell from Sussex on a two-year contract.

Kent have announced a £400,000 sponsorship deal with brewers Shepherd Neame. The sum represents a record for the county and will run for the next three years.

CYCLING

Seven cyclists from the Casino team are being questioned by French authorities investigating the doping scandal that overshadowed the Tour de France during the summer. Judicial sources said yesterday. It was expected that the seven, who were not named, would be released yesterday afternoon.

FOOTBALL

Vasile Boudi, the ex-manager of Ro-

manian side FC Olimpia, was yesterday arrested in connection with a missing \$100,000 which he is accused of embezzling from his former club and other unnamed sources. Boudi was dismissed by Olimpia in October after he was unable to satisfactorily explain an expenses claim of around \$50,000 to his board. The developments are the latest in a long line of financial scandals to have beset Romanian football since the collapse of communism in 1989.

Liverpool's FA Cup third-round tie at Port Vale will be screened live on TV at 2pm on Sunday 3 January. Sky will show the all-Premiership tie between Manchester United and Middlesbrough at 4pm on Sunday, and Preston's home tie with Arsenal at 8pm on Monday evening.

The Argentinian forward Ariel Ortega was suspended by his club Southampton yesterday following a drink-driving charge by police. Ortega's compatriot and team-mate Gaston Corboba and Brazilian Care were also suspended by the club.

A friendly international between Nigeria and Egypt originally scheduled to be played today has been called off by Nigerian officials after their Egyptian counterparts attempted to reschedule the game at the last minute for the second time in succession.

PREMIER LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS (for sendings-off): Three matches 5 Benítez (Southampton). (For eight sendings-off): One match 3 Caballero (Arsenal). One match 3 Roberts (Liverpool); 5 Williams (Liverpool). (For five sendings-off) one match 5 Slater (Chelsea); P. Teller (Coventry); D. Huckerby (Coventry); A. Haaland (Leeds); J. Lann (Leeds); S. Elliott (Newcastle); T. Scanlon (Sheff Wed); C. Palmer (Southampton); F. Leboeuf (Chelsea); R. Neil (Huddersfield). (For eight sendings-off): One match 3 Gosciniak (Middlesbrough).

FOOTBALL LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS (for sendings-off): Four matches 4 Gurney (Norwich); Three matches 3 M. Rahman (Bristol City); 5 Davis (Pulham); M. Peters (Mansfield); P. Rogers (Wigan); Two matches 2 Crocker (Barnsley); W. Bulmore (Scarborough). One match 5 Hodgson (Man City); M. Thomas (Luton); S. McCarthy (Plymouth); T. Droning (Stockport); G. Carr (Scarborough); O. Sello (Old-

ham). (For five sendings-off): One match 5 Gillingham; 5 Morgan (Barnsley); P. Sturges (Birmingham); S. Reid (Chester); J. Cross (Chester); D. Carr (Gillingham); B. Hiley (Gillingham); P. Cooper (Hartlepool); P. Thomas (Skegby); D. Roberts (Darlington); N. Young (Bournemouth); C. Morrison (Crystal Palace); S. Flack (Leicester); J. Fox (Rushworth); J. Flannery (Lincoln); P. Vaughan (Man City); M. Brown (Man City); D. Hooper (Preston); S. Collins (Plymouth); J. Baraoud (Queens Park Rangers); N. Richardson (Rotherham); A. Garcia (Scunthorpe); K. Ball (Sunderland); G. Allen (Tottenham); D. Wittle (Queens Park Rangers); S. Barlow (Wigan); C. Bradshaw (Wigan). (For eight sendings-off): One match 6 Johnson (Huddersfield); G. Kavanagh (Skegby); S. Howard (Hartlepool); G. McGowan (Luton); K. Mustac (Wolverhampton).

GOLF

The former Walker Cup captain and chairman of selectors George Macgregor will captain Scotland for the next two seasons. The 54-year-old played in five Walker Cups between 1971 and 1987 and earned 60 Scottish caps. His term as chairman of selectors ended with Britain and Ireland winning the world team title in Chile last month.

ICE HOCKEY

The London Knights coach Jim Fyachuk has been fined £250 and banned for two matches after making an "unauthorised visit" to the officials' room during a match against Cardiff Devils on 1 December. The suspension covers the games against Sheffield Steelers tomorrow and Nottingham Panthers next Tuesday. The Nottingham coach, Mike Blasdel, was also fined £250 and banned from his side's match against Bracknell Bees for a separate incident.

NHL New Rangers 6 Toronto 2; Dallas 3 Calgary 7.

SENIOR HOCKEY (Monday): Bracknell Bees 6 Newcastle Riverkings 5; Cardiff Devils 8 London Knights 5; Manchester Storm 3 Nottingham Panthers 2 (OT).

RALLYING

A treacherous water splash on a stage named Wakefield wreaked havoc in the Esso/JMC Rally of Jamaica

as Pentti Aikiala's tropical jaunt proved fruitless. The British-based Finn, winner of the 1989 RAC Rally, was plagued with mechanical problems throughout the two-day event and retired on the second leg with a gearbox failure in his latest Mazda 323. Oliver Townsend and co-driver Kirk Lee eventually emerged as victors after five different cars had led the event.

SAILLING

Isabelle Autissier was yesterday leading the fleet into the Roaring Forties on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland. She held a 13-mile over the night pack consisting of Mike Golding, Marc Thiercelin and Giovanni Soldini, who remained within three miles of one another, with Josh Hall held in fifth place. The Class II leader, Mike Garside, continues to set a fast pace 33 miles ahead of Viktor Vasylov, and his 40-foot Wind of Change.

SNOKER

Stephen Lee moved up to a career high fourth in the provisional rankings, by defeating Anthony Hamilton of Nottingham at the German Masters in Bingen. Lee made breaks of 77 and 75 to lead 2-0 before Hamilton took the third frame with a 123 clearance. But Lee's scoring touch remained intact in the second half of the one-sided contest, as he set up a quarter-final against Ken Doherty.

GERMAN MASTERS (Bingen) First round: S. Lee (Eng) bt A. Hamilton (Eng) 5-1.

SKIING

NORDIC WORLD CUP (Jilling) Cross-Country Sprint Men's Final: 1 M. Fredriksson (Swe); 2 P. Schindler (Ger); 3 T. Fredriksson (Swe); 4 O. B. Hjeltnes (Nor); 5 T. A. Herndon (Nor); 6 A. Palatka (Fin); 7 G. D. Centa (It); 8 M. Gandler (Aut). Women's Final: 1 A. Moen (Nor); 2 A. Malt (Swe); 3 B. Marstein (Nor); 4 K. Moroder (It); 5 S. Villenave (Fr); 6 K. Neumannova (Cz Rep); 7 M. Hemmick (Slo); 8 B. Albrecht (Slo). Overall standings (after two rounds): Men: 1 M. Fredriksson 150pts; 2 P. Elor-

Pompey ready for player auction

By Graeme Paterson

THE CHAIRMAN of Portsmouth is planning to sell players at knock-down prices to save the team from financial ruin. Martin Gregory is said to have drawn up a "bargain price list" of his squad to be circulated to every club in the country.

At the weekend, Gregory spent 48 hours discussing a takeover deal with the businessmen Vince Wolanin and Brian Howe, but the American-based pair flew home yesterday with the future of the club still uncertain.

Pompey's manager, Alan Ball, is said to be standing firm by the players, who yesterday staged a rebellion against Gregory when they learned he was planning to sell them off.

Following a meeting with the club's director, Peter Hinkinson, at Fratton Park yesterday, Ball said: "The chairman has got to tell the people exactly what is going on."

"I've insisted that he makes a statement. It's all very well hearing rumours about this and that, but he's got to tell people why I have been told to sell players. He has got to tell people the extent of the problems."

"One thing is for sure - I'm having no part in selling off this team to pay off debts. He says we have to sell players and I disagree with that and have told him that. I don't know where he will get the money from unless he gets a mass injection of cash from somewhere."

"I've got a four-year contract and I'm planning to see it out. I will work hard in my job to prepare the players for their game against Grimsby on Sunday. I am not going anywhere."

Portsmouth's captain, Adrian Whitbread, met senior players who yesterday decided to release a statement to *The News*, the city's newspaper.

Whitbread said: "We all got together and decided that we didn't want to go and we wanted to remain here and be loyal to the supporters who have been loyal to us all season. The manager does not want to sell anybody and we don't want to go."

The new Blackburn Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, is ready to raid his old club, Manchester United, to add coach Tony Coton for his back-room team.

Kidd plans to recruit new faces for his staff - and the former goalkeeper Coton is being lined up to join him, along with Brian McClair.

Coton has been at United this season as their goalkeeper coach, but he works without a contract and is keen to step up the managerial ladder.

Dave Bassett is trying to sign the Swedish centre-half Jesper Mattsson for Nottingham Forest in a bargain deal. The Hamstead defender is due to arrive at Forest for talks this week about a move to the Premiership strugglers. He has a fixed fee of £300,000 in his contract.

Mattsson was due to join Huddersfield Town last month, but the deal collapsed when a well-funded takeover fell through at the First Division club.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

UEFA CUP

THIRD ROUND SECOND LEG

Porto 10-0; Rangers 11-1; Bodo 47; Fure 63; Albstadt 29; Chelsea 67; 22,000.

Rangers: Sergio Parrot sent off, 45. Porto: 10-0 on aggregate.

ASIAN GAMES (Bangkok) Second round: Group 1: China 3 Tajikistan 1, Oman 4 Iran 2, Group 2: Thailand 1 Kazakhstan 1, Qatar 1 Lebanon 0.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Sheffield Wednesday 3 Nottingham Forest 2; Football Conference: Hednesford 1 Torquay 1; FA Trophy: Woking 2; Woking 2; Woking 2; Woking 2.

ASIAN GAMES (Bangkok) Second round: Group 1: China 3 Tajikistan 1, Oman 4 Iran 2, Group 2: Thailand 1 Kazakhstan 1, Qatar 1 Lebanon 0.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Sheffield Wednesday 3 Nottingham Forest 2; Football Conference: Hednesford 1 Torquay 1; FA Trophy: Woking 2; Woking 2; Woking 2; Woking 2.

ASIAN GAMES (Bangkok) Second round: Group 1: China 3 Tajikistan 1, Oman 4 Iran 2, Group 2: Thailand 1 Kazakhstan 1, Qatar 1 Lebanon 0.



SPORT

CAMBRIDGE THE MASTERS OF OXFORD P26 • RAMPRAKASH NOT AMUSED IN VICTORIA P25



Parma end Rangers' hopes

BY KEN GAUNT
in ParmaParma 3
Rangers 1
Parma win 4-2 on aggregate

RANGERS' DREAMS of Uefa Cup glory died in the space of 20 minutes yesterday at the Tardini Stadium. The Scottish Premier League leaders conceded three goals in that spell after being reduced to 10 men in this third round, second-leg match.

The defender Sergio Porrini was sent off at the end of the first half by the Norwegian referee Gerge Hauge for his second bookable offence, both yellow cards the result of challenges on Juan Veron.

The Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, was furious at the decision. "There was no reason to give that second yellow card to Porrini and it changed the face of the game," Advocaat said. "It made it very difficult to match Parma in the second half."

The Scots had been in the driving seat before Porrini's dismissal, with Jörg Albertz putting them 2-1 ahead on aggregate in the 29th minute. But they were left with a daunting task against a team of Parma's quality. The Italians have not lost in Europe for the past five years and are currently flying high in Serie A.

Abel Balbo pulled them level two minutes after the break but worse was to follow for Rangers. The substitute Stefano Fiore put Parma ahead in the 63rd minute and Enrico Chiesa sealed a place in the quarter-finals by scoring from the spot four minutes later.

Advocaat sprang a surprise before the game by omitting Andrei Kanchelskis. The Russian winger was expected to play a key role but instead Albertz retained his place. Gordon Durie was recalled to the front line with Jonatan Johansson suffering from a hamstring injury while Stéphane Guivarch's was ineligible. But Rangers were forced on the back foot in the first half with Balbo squandering a good chance of giving Parma the



The Rangers defender Sergio Porrini fouls Parma's Juan Peron to earn himself a red card during yesterday's 3-1 Uefa Cup defeat at the Tardini Stadium

Empics

lead in the sixth minute. Fabio Cannavaro played a long ball in from the right and Chiesa flicked it on only for Balbo to steer it wide of the post.

Rangers gave Chiesa too much room and the Finnish goalkeeper Antti Niemi twice had to scramble the ball away from the striker's feet.

Yet Rangers shocked their opponents by taking the lead

against the run of play in the 29th minute when Roberto Sensi carelessly lost possession to Albertz. The German midfielder took the ball on and delivered a stunning strike into the corner to put Rangers 1-0 up on the day and 2-1 ahead on aggregate.

But the turning point came just before the break, with Porrini picking up his first yellow

card in the 44th minute with a hunch on Veron. Then came his dismissal a minute later, leaving Rangers with an uphill task to qualify.

"We showed in the first half we can compete at their level and both sides played a lot of good football," Advocaat said. "Amoruso had a good game and there was no reason for him to use his hands and give

away the penalty. But don't put the blame on Amoruso and Porrini. What happened to them is part of the game."

Parma pulled level two minutes after the break when Balbo knocked the ball in after Chiesa had flicked on a cross from Veron. The home side then stepped up the pace and Veron started to do some serious damage. His free-kick was

blocked by Albertz but only landed at the feet of Fiore 25 yards out. He did not hesitate to shoot the ball beyond Niemi.

Rangers continued to battle away but their fate was sealed in the 67th minute when Amoruso handled a long ball from Veron and referee Hauge had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Chiesa swept home the penalty kick.

Parma: Buffon, Thuram, Sensi, Cannavaro, Fusi (Musi, 84), Baggio, Boghosian (Fiore 56), Benarrivo, Veron, Balbo, Chiesa (Crespo, 74). Substitutes not used: Nista (84), Sinelli, Orlandini, Giunti.
Rangers: Niemi, Porrini, Hendry, Amoruso, Norman, Albertz, B. Ferguson (Miller, 81), I. Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Wallace (Arnautovic, 73), Durie (Vidmar, 54). Substitutes not used: Brown (84), Stensness, Wilson, Kanchelskis.
Referee: T. Hauge (Norway).

■ The Borussia Dortmund keeper, Stefan Klos, has been given the all clear to hold talks with Rangers.

Warne 'secretly fined' on tour

CRICKET
BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

IT EMERGED yesterday that two Australian Test cricketers were secretly fined by the Australian Cricket Board for accepting money from a bookmaker on the tour to Pakistan in 1994.

The Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, Malcolm Speed, confirmed that the two were fined A\$2,500 (£900) each for providing information about pitches and the weather to allow the bookmaker to formulate odds on the series. The news slipped out yesterday in an interview on a Melbourne radio station with the former Test player David Hookes. He said that he "understood" the players involved were Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

The ACB, which would not itself name the pair, confirmed that it would be holding a news conference in Adelaide, where the Australian squad have gathered for Friday's third Ashes Test. The two players are expected to attend in person.

"The two players were fined after the tour of Pakistan," Speed confirmed. "They are both still prominent members of the Australian team."

Hookes said: "In 1994, a player accepted money from an Indian bookmaker to give a report on the ground and weather conditions for some of the upcoming matches in that series."

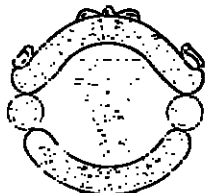
Hookes added he believed there was no suggestion of the player being bribed to influence the outcome of matches and that the player had gone to the ACB to seek advice.

"And I'm also led to believe that (another player) was also involved," Hookes said.

"It should be stressed that (the first player), I believe, went to the ACB in 1994 after receiving some money and said he wasn't sure whether he was doing the right thing or the wrong thing," Hookes continued.

INSIDE: WILL MANCHESTER UNITED OVERCOME MUNICH?

Glenn Moore assesses Alex Ferguson's team's chances of advancing past the German champions in tonight's decisive Champions League group game... plus Arsenal in Greece and a guide to all the groups for a big night in Europe

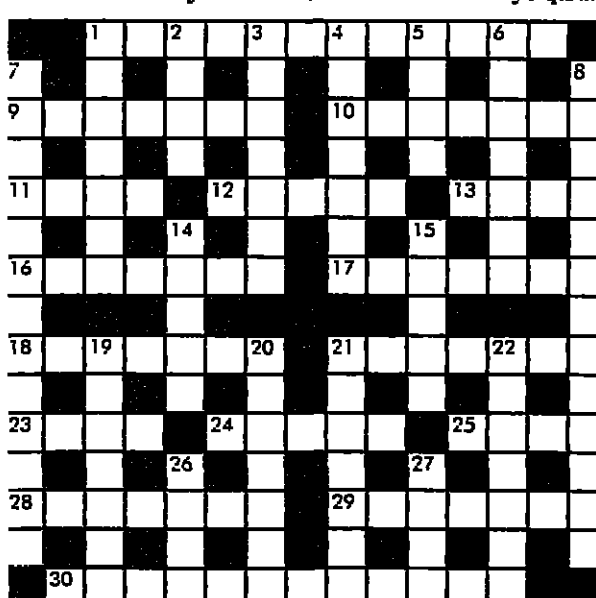


THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3789 Wednesday 9 December

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



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CLOTHESSENSE

ACROSS

- 1 When he treats roots, don't hit out! (12)
- 3 Interpret former US poet (7)
- 10 An alarming blood-count? (7)
- 11 Duke, say, holding maximum number of Western dollars? (4)
- 12 Sodium in California is cut (5)
- 13 Home fixture for City (4)
- 16 A dinner-switch in the theatre (7)
- 17 Ursula has beer-drunk? (3-4)
- 18 Uncommunicative types, these natives (7)
- 21 Sculptor's hole-in-one (7)
- 23 Approaching doctor: it is grave (4)

DOWN

- 24 Stops most of settlement (5)
- 25 Disapproved of in Central Constabulary (4)
- 28 Well versed in New Latin in respect of marriage (7)
- 29 Rope pulled - to conform, say? (7)
- 30 Insured truck attached to train? (7,5)
- 1 One who resists problem at work (7)
- 2 Tense, being instructed by ear (4)
- 3 Card-game? Here is one, on the shelf (3,4)
- 4 Tests of gold shares (7)
- 5 Cheeky drop in rent (4)
- 6 South American custom-built banger (7)

Arrogant, demanding Platform Ten is made ready (4-9)

- 4 Pop idols? (6-7)
- 14 Left port with full cargo (5)
- 15 He will shortly ring - to say this? (5)
- 19 Broken promise of part-time earner (4-3)
- 20 Low seat that is for a police informer (7)
- 21 Amerind Watch Co. gone bust (7)
- 22 Mendelssohn's fourth vermouth, we hear (7)
- 26 String band (4)
- 27 Catch on small branch (4)

Olympic movement in £15m clean-up vow

PROPOSALS to establish the world's largest doping control operation, at a cost of \$25m (£15.25m), will be put to the International Olympic Committee this week.

"We want to create an independent doping agency with proper funding that will be able to investigate and co-ordinate testing worldwide," said the British IOC member Craig Reddie, who will present detailed plans for the scheme to an IOC executive committee meeting in Lausanne.

Reddie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, believes it is crucial to the future of the Olympic Movement that it should play a more active part fighting doping abuse.

"Clearly the present system is imperfect," he said. "Attending to that will be part of the crusade. It is imperative that we get our message to all sports that Olympic sport is clean."

"The Olympic Movement has to put its house in order. It should then be allowed to deal with its own affairs. If not, it is probably dead in the water."

Reddie is a key member of one of four working parties who

DRUGS IN SPORT

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

will report their findings this week as the IOC prepares to host the first World Conference on Doping in Sport on 2-4 February next year.

The initiative, which will deal with all aspects of doping including protection of athletes and legal, financial and political difficulties, comes in the wake of the controversy aroused earlier this year by the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

According to a Spanish newspaper, Samaranch said his main concern about doping was whether it harmed competitors, rather than whether it enhanced their performance. That was widely seen as a signal of defeat: the World Conference is a statement of renewed intent.

"It is convenient to say we don't really care that much about substances that aren't dangerous," Reddie said. "But we have to care about them if they are performance-enhancing." Reddie, and working party chairman Dick Pound, an IOC vice-president, will suggest the

new doping agency be funded by "top-skimming" revenue generated by Olympic TV rights - thus sharing the cost right across the Movement.

"We believe that the programme is to the benefit of many," Reddie said. "Sponsors, sports goods manufacturers, the pharmaceutical industry - all have an interest in sport being clean." The new body, Reddie says, would be likely to use existing testing agencies of recognised high standard in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Norway and Sweden. "In other countries," he explained, "we need to encourage international federations who are not running out-of-competition testing."

Reddie is hopeful that the problem of banned competitors reducing their penalties through appeals to civil courts can be overcome if the IOC is seen to have harmonised its policies as far as possible. "We need a unified and enforceable punishment system, so that if someone is given a two-year ban, they can't reduce it on appeal to a civil court," he said.

The IOC executive committee will also receive a resolution from last month's meeting of European Olympic Committees calling for the right to establish eligibility criteria - "including unannounced out-of-competition controls." As BOA chairman, Reddie is determined to defend the bylaw which rules any British competitor found guilty of serious doping abuse out of any future Olympics.

Among the other measures which would improve the situation in preventing doping in sport, Reddie highlights the need for standardising punishments, and putting more emphasis on research.

Authorities failing sport, page 23

French rugby chief calls for creatine ban

THE PRESIDENT of the French rugby union is to demand the banning of creatine - the muscle-building supplement marketed as a 'legal steroid' - for next year's Five Nations Championship and World Cup.

Bernard Lapasset will take advantage of the visit of the International Rugby Board president, Vernon Pugh, and the European Rugby Council president, Tom Kiernan, to Paris on Saturday to air his views.

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Didn't she do well? Jenny Saville's *Prop* fetched £51,000 at yesterday's Christie's auction. Its estimated price had been £10-15,000

Peter Macdiarmid

BritArt's big day out

They came to pay tribute (and £1.6m) to the good taste (and better judgement) of Charles Saatchi, the one-man art market...

Some came to praise BritArt. Some came hoping to see it buried. Some came to buy; others just to gawp. Yesterday, in a warehouse next to Smithfield Market, London, British contemporary art had its biggest test. It had to be a warehouse as no Christie's showroom could accommodate Jake & Dinos Chapman's towering fibreglass sculpture of Professor Stephen Hawking in his wheelchair tottering on the edge of a cliff.

And with Damien Hirst's prime exhibit consisting of dozens of jars of internal organs of cattle, where better to sell it than next to the country's most famous meat market? But those who climbed the corrugated iron staircases into the third floor of the incongruously makeshift saleroom yesterday were not bothered about the surroundings. Dealers, collectors, gallery directors, art students and anyone desirous of showing off at a dinner party needed the answer to the key question the afternoon would unlock: could the "Sensation" crowd of Hirst, Rachel Whiteread, Jake & Dinos Chapman et al cut the mustard any more?

Certainly, they could get exhibitions, Venice Biennale pavilions and critical acclaim. The art world establishment had taken the media darlings of the Brit Pack to its embrace and every cutting-edge space in the country has been theirs throughout the Nineties.

But did anyone want to buy them? Were Hirst's internal organs of cattle and Whiteread's sculpted space around a kitchen sink to be seen as eternal art, provoking philosophical questions and increasing in value each year, or as mere ephemera, the emblems of a faddish, over-hyped decade of student art now to be exposed as the emperor's new clothes?

The man taking the risk, not just for himself but for the entire art world and the auction houses, was Charles Saatchi, the collector and advertising agency co-founder, who had almost single-handedly discovered the Hirst generation. It was his £70m collection which was used for "Sensation" last year at the Royal Academy. Now he was offloading 5 per cent of it, 130 works by 97 artists, with the proceeds going towards bursaries for art students and funds for art colleges.

The warehouse was a sea of black, clearly the chosen Brit Pack colour. Even the collectors who stepped out of Rolls-Royces and Mercedes in the car park, wearing dark glasses in the grey drizzle to show this was the cutting edge, disdained colour as a tribute to the generation of artists who took art out of the gallery and into the warehouses and student shows.

Leaning against one of the tall, white pillars under the industrial tiling were some of the Young British Artists themselves. Sue Webster and Tim Noble were not up for auction on this occasion, but they were curious. "We want to know what this work is worth," they said. There in their financial security lay.

"We don't want to be part of a fashion," said Miss Webster, "as fashion always goes out of fashion." She had, at least, mastered the Saatchi soundbite.

In front of them sat the experienced art buyer Frank Cohen, the owner of an extensive collection that includes Damien Hirst. He said it remained difficult to determine the worth of work when the artists were still young and fresh. He

said he had his eyes on Ron Mueck's *Big Baby*. But when the bidding started and rapidly rose, his interest seemed to wane.

The only splat of colour at the auction was provided by Angus Rankine, sporting a bright orange coat and yellow tie. Not surprisingly, he turned out to be the owner of a Hirst spot painting. The managing director of a communications company, he said he was not there to buy but to study the going rates. "I enjoy trying to follow the tracks of Charles Saatchi."

One man who did eventually buy was the investment manager Roddy Campbell, who bought a Walter Niedermayr snow-splattered canvas for £3,000. His juices flowing, the first-time bidder said: "I cannot describe what making a bid is like. I feel quite sweaty and full of adrenalin now. It's like having a severe coffee shake."

Amid the largely young faces Mr Campbell was a typical member of the Brit Pack fan club - wearing a long, dark trenchcoat and dark-rimmed glasses. Every so often he sought advice from his wife via mobile phone. He looked

more like a trainspotter than an art buyer. But perhaps this is the new trainspotting.

As Mueck's *Big Baby* came up, one art student said in a loud stage whisper: "Save your money, it's only wax." He was hushed up. The artists are allowed to make jokes with their installations. The buyers are not.

The auctioneer mounted the wooden podium, flanked in startling contrast by the saleroom's bright red cloths. Richard Billingham's photographs of outsize women and Mueck's two-foot-high, oversized, polyester resin sculpture of a boy. The whole room went quiet. Except a genuine baby, squealing in its art-buying mother's arms, perhaps terrified by Mueck's version of itself staring wide-eyed and naked.

It might have been more terrified had its mother turned its face towards the Christie's screen. On it flashed up the first major lot - to non-art lovers, what seemed to be a page from the daily *Sport* featuring seven nudes. How little non-art lovers know. This was by one of the leaders of the Brit Pack, Sarah Lucas, and complete with title - *Seven Up* - and official description -

"photocopy on paper, executed in 1991" - this was radical contemporary art. Don't believe me; read the catalogue. "She's a code-breaker and a ball-buster, a saboteur and a spy. Elegantly in your face, Lucas is a smutty, salt-of-the-earth loud whose unequivocal work is raw and loud and startling."

Who could resist that? Very few, it rapidly became evident. The bids resounded in the hall. "Last chance, Sir, you've come all the way to Clerkenwell," the auctioneer said to a bidder he may have recognised from the more sedate saleroom in St James's. The telephones started going ballistic. In a few moments the £7,000 top estimate was broken and more than doubled as *The Sport*'s inside page, with a touch of code-breaking and ball-busting, fetched £14,500.

Next up was Jenny Saville's *Prop*, an oil painting of a hugely fat woman, to prove Saville's philosophy that male fantasies must be challenged and big can be beautiful.

The bigger challenge was whether Saville herself could sell. She had never sold outside the

Saatchi collection. Had his championing of the 28-year-old artist paid dividends? It had. The top estimate was £15,000. It sold for £51,000. A few cognoscenti observed that she had a show soon at the Gagosian Gallery in New York. That, the sages mused, would have helped the price.

But no time to chat. The two big tests of the Brit Pack, of Charles Saatchi's influence and of the market, had arrived. First came *Untitled (Square Sink)* by Rachel Whiteread, a Turner Prize winner and Britain's representative at the last Venice Biennale. A picture of the "negative cast" of the sink came up on the screen. "It's the Rachel Whiteread," one woman whispered to her neighbour, somehow a more awe-inspired whisper than "It's the kitchen sink". The auctioneer turned straight to the bank of telephones. "The bidding is between Henry and Laura," he said, signalling what must have been two Christie's employees rather than collectors, given away by their lack of black clothing.

Whiteread's negative sink, estimated to sell for £50,000, fetched £133,500. It was another telephone bid that took Damien Hirst's spot painting for £110,000. The faith in the Brit Pack had held. At a recent sale a Hirst spot painting failed to reach its estimate. That was a blip. The £122,500 was more than four times the estimate.

Though much higher than their estimates, the prices were still relatively economical in terms of saleroom masterpieces. BritArt is affordable, and there was considerable speculation that some of the telephone bidders might have been connected with the Tate, which has a new international gallery of modern art at Bankside to furnish.

What a feast of the avant-garde. But the spectacle at the feast was Charles Saatchi. In one afternoon he had offloaded 5 per cent of his collection, proved the marketability of young British artists and raised more than £1m for art students and art colleges.

And he was nowhere to be seen. The consensus in the room was that he was out "shopping", scouring the colleges for the next generation of Hirsts and Whitereads so that he could make their names, shock some more, earn some more, then offload them all in a good cause, naturally.

Additional reporting by Anne-Celine Jaeger

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2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

The phonics success

Sir: Far from being embarrassed, as your article "New reading plan 'staggeringly good'" (report, 7 December) suggests, the Government is pleased that the new literacy hour is becoming a part of school days across England.

The emphasis on phonics, spelling and grammar in the National Literacy Strategy draws on research in over 500 schools where new evidence shows it to be effective. It represents an enormous cultural shift after some 30 years in which far too many teachers and schools dismissed the value of phonics.

We welcome research into effective use of phonics, although the research you quote was based on just eight schools. There is a range of phonics schemes which are entirely consistent with the National Literacy Strategy, and schools are free to choose among them. Where we find good ways of teaching phonics, of course we encourage them.

Coming on top of the £2,000 we have provided for books for every school in the country, £54m for the National Literacy Strategy means that all schools will be able to successfully implement the strategy, which has been shown to work.

ESTELLE MORRIS
Schools Standards Minister
Department for Education and
Employment
London SW1

Sir: "Synthetic phonics" are not new or mysterious - they are not even Scottish. Thirty years ago, Kathleen Hickey was training teachers for the Dyslexia Institute, and showing them some simple techniques - arrange the alphabet letters in an arc, teach the first few sounds (f, t, p, n, s) then ask the child to make words from these letters.

Sound-letter links of increasing complexity were accumulated and rehearsed. Meanwhile, the skills learned by synthesis were being used in writing, and eased into reading real books.

Kathleen Hickey trained dozens of teachers; they have gone on to train hundreds of others. "Synthetic phonics" are part of every Dyslexia Institute lesson, and commonplace in thousands of literacy hours.

MARGARET COMBLEY
Sheffield

Sir: I was delighted to read this morning, and have been since I first learned to do so. Discovering that synthetic phonics is accelerating the process for today's children was therefore excellent news.

I do hope, however, that mathematical ability will not be disadvantaged by a process which teaches six phonemes a day for eight days and achieves a total of only 42 sounds.

IAN MACDONALD
London W3

House-buying fiasco

Sir: You point out that house-buying is not the same as buying baked beans ("Neither a gazump nor a gazunderer be", 7 December), but state that the Government's proposed measures are "justified intervention" in the housing market. They are, in fact, foolish and a recipe for litigation.

Sellers and buyers are expected to suspend the laws of supply and demand; a seller's estate agent is expected to conceal from his client the fact that he has received a higher offer for the property; negotiations for a house sale will never get anywhere beyond vacuous waffle in case the buyer commits himself unwittingly to a deal which, for example, he has not financed or the seller commits himself to a sale when he has nowhere else to go. For how long do you suggest that the parties are bound by their "agreement" before one is entitled to call time and sue for breach of contract?

You state that no change in the law is required, but as any law student will tell you, a promise by a

seller that he will not increase the price of the property is unenforceable unless the buyer makes some payment in exchange for that promise.

As for the extraordinary proposal that surveyor should be liable to anyone to whom the seller bands around their survey, this would involve rewriting the law on negligent advice with widespread implications for all professional advisers.

What the Government appears to propose is a preliminary agreement, to be entered into before the usual contract, which will be subject to so many conditions and get-out clauses that it will not be an agreement at all.

Like many New Labour initiatives I doubt very much that we will hear much more of these proposals.

MARTIN FRASER
Reading,
Berkshire

Asylum overhaul

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's article "We shall be judged by them" (3 December) reminds us of the debate on asylum policy that we need to have in this country.

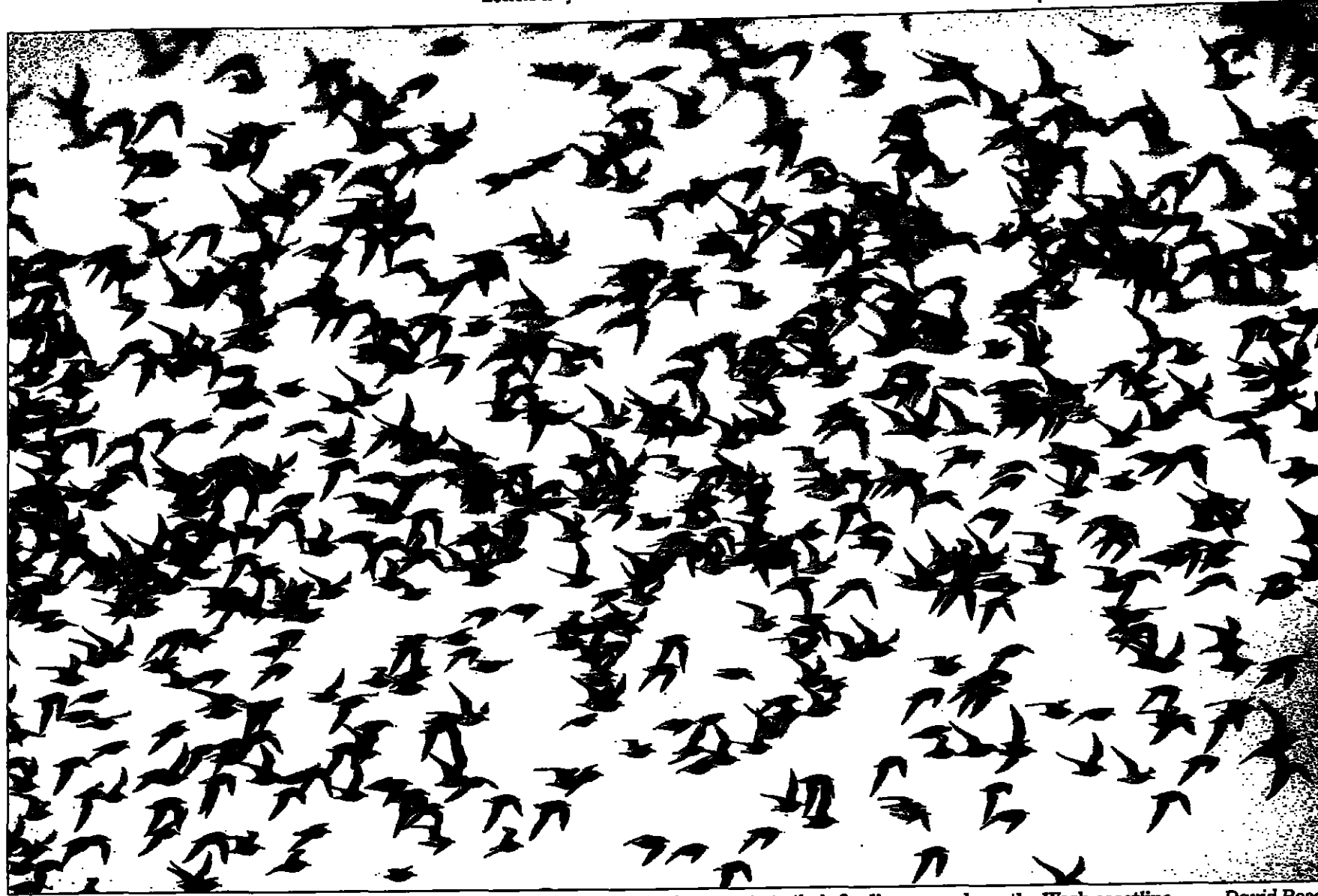
We are concerned about the proposed changes to how asylum-seekers are treated, as outlined in the White Paper on Immigration and Asylum. They do not adequately deal with the hundreds of people seeking asylum in Britain who are dependent on hand-outs from the voluntary sector and religious organisations because state support is inadequate.

This is not Victorian England. In the 1990s, no one should have to help asylum-seekers in such a paternalistic fashion.

As well as reconsidering the White Paper proposals, the whole philosophical underpinning of asylum policy needs a radical rethink. As part of this, the Government would do well to clarify what steps it is taking to counter the negative stereotyping of asylum-seekers that has been displayed by certain sections of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Winter Visitors No 3: As the day warms up, knot from Greenland take to the air en route to their feeding grounds on the Wash coastline

David Rose

the Press. The current spate of newspaper stories have strong resonances with those that surrounded the arrival of Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian and Nazi persecution throughout this century.

Britain will never just, multi racial society until these issues are tackled. Dr EDIE FRIEDMAN
Director
Jewish Council for Racial
Equality
London W1

Sir: The Home Secretary has created a rod for his own back by not accepting the Schengen agreement, so that it is still possible for asylum seekers coming overland from Eastern Europe to pass the "international frontier" on the British coast, and be able to claim asylum ("Romanians' bid for freedom ends in jail", 8 December).

If, as was intended by the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act 1986, this coastal frontier was simply an internal one, asylum-

seekers would have to return to the last international frontier that they had passed, which would be the eastern external frontier of the European Union.

So come on Mr Straw, under the Treaty of Amsterdam, Article 4, you can take part in all the provisions of Schengen. We are supposed to be at the heart of Europe, and yet we have three passport checks on incoming Eurostars.

Your administration is anxious to bring the benefits of the Union to the ordinary person, and nothing is more beneficial than the free movement of persons. Eurostar might start to make a profit at last, and the truckers will not have to dump their stowaways on the steps of your office. PETER M HAWKINS
Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire

Gulf veterans' plight

Sir: You report (2 December) that Ministry of Defence police, trying to recover documents relating to

the use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Gulf war, have raided the homes of two veterans.

As a patron of the Royal British Legion Branch of the Gulf Veterans' Association I would deplore any action by veterans which might carry them outside the law in their efforts to draw attention to the plight of their many sick comrades. The two men are not members of the branch and I hope they have taken no action which would detract from the vital service its officers provide to Gulf veterans and their families.

Breaking the law cannot be condoned. Nevertheless, the raids have highlighted the culture of denial that has pervaded the Ministry of Defence since the first reports of sickness in members of Her Majesty's armed forces returning from the Gulf in 1991.

There may be as many as 5,000 British servicemen and women whose quality of life has been seriously affected since the Gulf war. Their suicide rate is running at unacceptable levels. In the absence of definitive causation,

we should not be surprised if they attempted to find their own answers to the many questions raised by the polysymptomatic nature of their illnesses. Sadly, some choose to publicise information which may be misleading and which, I am aware, creates an element of panic in some of the more susceptible veterans.

It is now nearly eight years since the Gulf war. Is it not time for the Government to relax its defensive posture, listen to and believe the sick veterans and provided them with the medical diagnosis, treatment and financial support they rightly seek?

On 11 June 1998 the Royal British Legion wrote to the Prime Minister asking for a public inquiry into the way in which the aftermath of the Gulf war has been handled. They have not had the courtesy of a response. Until we know the answers to all the questions associated with Gulf war illnesses we are not going to be able to prevent a repetition in the future. There should be an immediate public inquiry. The Countess of MAR
House of Lords
London SW1

Scotland in the EU

Sir: Peter Gresham (letter, 4 December) assumes that in the event of the breakup of the United Kingdom, Scotland would be thrown out of the EU but England would remain a member.

It is the United Kingdom that is a member of the EU. The United Kingdom is a union of equals and Scotland is not merely a separate province but a distinct country. If the break of the "United Kingdom" results in the expulsion of one of the constituent countries, that should apply equally to the remainder.

It is perceived arrogance such as Mr Gresham's that fuels the drive towards separatism in Scotland. ANDREW THORNBURY
Aberdeen

IN BRIEF

Long ago I was taught the proper way, and have passed it on to my children and grand children.

Cut just through the skin to mark out four segments. With the tip of the knife cut round the raised end and lift out the tufted button of the fruit. It is then possible to separate the pomegranate into its quarters without breaking a single ruby seed, and easy to lift them out without any of the bitter pith. KATHLEEN GILLOTT
Banbury, Oxfordshire

Sir: If you were to ask 100 people what should fill the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square ("Populism on the plinth", 8 December), you

would probably get 95 different answers.

So why not leave it empty, save for a plaque fixed to the base explaining that it is a memorial to all those people who deserved a statue but never got one? GEOFF PEARSON
London E3

Sir: If the general secretary of the National Secular Society really imagines that "the only interruptions that could result in prison are those in or around a place of worship" (letter, 7 December), he should consult a better law book or attempt the experiment of interrupting a non-religious funeral, or an election meeting, or a local council, or a law court, or one of the Houses of Parliament. JEAN RAISSON
London N19

Rationing the NHS

Sir: Dr Nicholas Leach's letter on NHS rationing (2 December) and your further articles on the dangers of smoking (3 December) surely suggest one area in which NHS expenditure could be reduced.

No one is required to smoke tobacco. It is a voluntary exercise, particularly among young people starting the habit. After years of publicity no one can claim ignorance of the medical dangers. Why, then, should the taxpayer pay for the medical treatment of those who, willfully and deliberately, carelessly, indulge themselves in a practice they know will harm them?

I should like to see and hear discussed the suggestion that, with effect from some arbitrary cut-off date in the future (say the year 2000) people with smoking-related illnesses should not normally receive free treatment under the NHS. Such people should be made individually to contribute towards the cost of their treatment. Let NHS money be spent on people who are sick or injured through causes beyond their control.

Perhaps people who know that if they become ill through smoking they will have to pay for treatment will summon up some self-discipline and not smoke again or not take up the habit. DENYS WHATMORE
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: Early next year, the Government is commencing a 24-hour telephone service, called NHS Direct, to deal with patients' health queries. This does not seem a sensible use of taxpayers' money. At present, patients can ring their general practitioners at any time of day or night and duplicating this service does not provide any obvious benefits. What problem is NHS Direct trying to solve?

Nurses are having to be trained and will have to be paid to give advice, and the protocols which they are using have been tried and tested in America. They number over 200 and, not surprisingly, are extremely "safe". The result may well be that ambulances will be called more often, rather than less often, and that accident and emergency departments will become yet busier.

The National Health Service provides 24-hour cover. Co-operatives are working well. NHS Direct seems to be an expensive solution to a non-existent problem. Dr DANNY R WALLACE
General Practitioner
Ilfracombe, Devon

LibDems target tax

Sir: Steve Richards ("When will New Labour face up to the truth about taxes?", 7 December) gives a timely warning. It is only the existence of an independent Liberal Democrat party which is keeping this issue on the agenda. This is one of many reasons why, as Paddy Ashdown has often said, "If we did not exist, it would be necessary to invent us."

EARL RUSSELL
House of Lords
London SW1

Van in a million

Sir: Can you please tell me where I can get a white van like that driven by the 28-year-old Mancunian in Alex Hayes' article "Highway robbery on the M6" (Review, 7 December)?

It is stated to have been carrying 150 crates with 2,500 pints of beer in each crate. This makes 375,000 pints or some 210 tons dead weight of beer alone.

Counting packaging, the total weight must have been some 250 tons (aluminium cans) or 300 tons (glass bottles). If it had happened, and Benedict had had any sense, he'd have said: "Yes. It's just a game, you dolt. It's a cheerful way of filling space at the end of the year. It doesn't mean anything and nobody takes it that seriously."

Bit like the weather forecast, really. And the political soothsayers. And the football previewers. And the share tippers. And... well, pretty well everyone, really.

Looking for anonymity? Just be tipped for stardom

SUNDAY AND Monday down in this part of the world (the western end of Wiltshire) were fine and sunny days, blue and bonny, with nary a cloud in the sky and even some warmth in the sun. I only mention it because that is not what the forecast said it was going to be. The weather forecast as practised by the witch doctors on Radio 4's Today programme promised cloudy weather, grey and dreary, bit of rain, odd shower, windy too. They got it pretty wrong. They forecast nasty weather. It was extremely nice weather. It doesn't come a lot wronger than that.

They didn't apologise, either, partly because weather forecasters never apologise, partly because weather programmes are so constructed that they always look forward and never back. They

never have post-mortems and moments of self-criticism or even dispassionate explanations of how they got it wrong. They always assume that things went according to forecast, which is blatantly untrue. Even now, they still refuse to admit that they didn't really foresee the hurricane of 1987...

The odd thing is that we never take weather forecasters to task for this inability to forecast weather. On Today, Gary Richardson, the sports reporter, is often a bit of studio laughter for the inaccuracy of his racing tips, but I have never heard a weather forecaster given anything short of respect and dignity. Of course, this may be because so much of Today is devoted to speculation anyway - "The Government is expected to announce today... It looks as if the Queen's

speech will contain... It may be only a matter of hours before bombs start falling on..." and so on.

And this is because so much of all journalism is devoted to speculation and guesswork. It isn't presented as speculation, of course. It's presented as hard 99 per cent certain fact. "Bosnia - The bombers will go in." "Ireland - Yes, it's peace." "Iraq - Clinton to punish Saddam with air strike." "Monica - Clinton to fall within days." We have all seen these headlines. But they weren't facts. They were guesswork, and wrong guesswork at that. And we all ignored them. We knew they weren't worth the paper they were printed on.

So why do newspapers go on printing them?

Is it because, like racing tipsters, they know their forecasts will come

true sooner or later? Or is it because they know they can never be brought to account, because nobody can ever remember what they forecast anyway? Can they bask in the certain knowledge that nobody goes through back numbers of papers, checking their certain forecasts against reality, comparing the grey cloudy forecasts with the sunny blue reality? Well, somebody does.

I do. At least, I have recently been clearing out a huge amount of old papers, and I keep coming across past prognostications buried in the back numbers, and I perpetually wonder at how inaccurate they are. Here is The Independent for 30 December 1995, for instance (yes, my piles go back years) and a feature called "These Are The Rising Stars of 1996", with the sub-heading, "Which names will you hear everywhere in the year

ahead? David Benedict canvassed the views of The Independent's critics..." Here are those names. Gillian Wearing, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Georgina Starr, Philip Osment, Alexandra Gilbreath, James Macdonald, Daniel Harding, Natalie Clein, David Sauer, Liv Tyler, Michael Winterbottom, Elizabeth Shue, Raissa, The Blue-tones, The 60 Ft Dolls, Joan Osborne, Adam Cooper, John Hannah, Justin Bell...

One or two of these names do actually ring a bell with me, but I sure as hell didn't spend any part of 1996 hearing them everywhere. Or 1997. Or 1998. And I am fairly certain the editor of the paper didn't get David Benedict in at the end of 1996 and say:

"Now this is pretty serious, Benedict. We have kept a tab on the rising stars of 1996, the ones that you tipped a year ago, and very few of them seem to have perceptibly risen at all. A lot of readers have written in, wondering why we got it so wrong. Before I sack you and your critics, is there anything you'd like to say?"

If it had happened, and Benedict had had any sense, he'd have said: "Yes. It's just a game, you dolt. It's a cheerful way of filling space at the end of the year. It doesn't mean anything and nobody takes it that seriously."

Bit like the weather forecast, really. And the political soothsayers. And the football previewers. And the share tippers. And... well, pretty well everyone, really.



MILES KINGTON
"We have kept a tab on the rising stars you tipped, and very few seem to have risen at all"

THE UNIVERSAL Declaration of Human Rights is rightly praised for its role in focusing the world's attention on civil liberties and human dignity. It has been used to oppose apartheid in South Africa. Communism and many other human rights violations. Why, then, has it failed to make Sudan a focus of world condemnation, even though its dictatorship is arguably the worst human rights violator in the world?

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We should not be afraid of controlled human cloning

THE EMOTIONS raised by human "cloning" are predictable, and have been in play again following the expert recommendation that scientists should be permitted to clone human embryos in the very early stages of development. Critics complain that an important principle will be breached; for the first time, human beings themselves will be produced outside the normal course of sexual reproduction, raising the possibility, albeit distant, that scientists could raise identical humans to adulthood.

Authorising such experiments on human embryos would indeed be a momentous step, which no amount of re-naming of the subject will disguise. The Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC) and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) employ new terminology to make their case. Cell Nucleus Replacement is the term scientists use for cloning embryos less than 14 days old; but this will indeed mean that human beings, albeit embryonic, will have been cloned.

We should not be afraid of this step. We do not, in any case, treat embryos as we do human beings after birth: limited experimentation is already legal within 14 days of fertilisation, and this latest development holds out far greater medical benefits than the types of experiment that are already allowed.

If doctors in the future were able to clone organs from our bodies, the rejection of transplants might be averted. If "harvesting" brain cells could replace cells damaged by disorders such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease, much more pain and misery would be averted.

These are the hopes of scientists working on cloning embryos, since if they can clone the so-called "stem cells", the parents of all future cells in the body, they may learn how to govern the growth of those cells. Ministers should not deny the alleviation of human suffering by embryo research, a principle that has already been conceded, because of some inarticulate public unease.

What the public object to is the threat of reproductive cloning, whereby human beings would be duplicated. Yesterday's report rules this out, separating the process of repairing damaged tissues from the morally repugnant threat of reproducing ourselves. It is true that a cloned embryo could in theory grow into a person similar to the "parent" embryo, if implanted into a human womb; but legislation needs to respond to technological advance, and distinguish therapeutic research from reproduction.

New scientific developments always make us uneasy, challenging our views of right and wrong. But if scientists can cure diseases blighting millions, then they should be allowed this limited freedom to clone human embryos, just as they would clone animal cells. The reality is that the clock cannot be turned back, nor the future averted.



A genuine attempt to help the vulnerable

THE GOVERNMENT'S "Third Way" has often been just a vacuous phrase. In his proposals for care in the community, Mr Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has gone some way to endowing the phrase with meaning.

Bulldozing the Victorian piles within which society incarcerated the mentally ill was an action born of the best intentions; their state was a standing affront to a civilised society. It was a very real achievement of the Conservative government that they began to tackle that scandal.

But the policy went too far towards assuming that release was the best cure for all. Combined with a lack of resources, this was a recipe for disaster. A series of high-profile violent crimes committed by patients released into the community rightly brought this to the attention of an

anxious public. Last month an independent inquiry criticised a London local authority for not providing adequate back-up care to Michael Folkes, who stabbed his girlfriend to death after being released into the community.

Mr Dobson's ideas are mostly welcome corrections, providing more services to fill the gap between hospital and unsupervised release. To be effective, the drugs that have allowed many mentally ill people to live relatively normal lives since the Fifties and Sixties have to be taken; often the problem is that unsupervised patients forget this, and relapse. When Christopher Clunis stabbed Jonathan Zito on Finsbury Park Underground station in one of the most publicised cases, he had stopped taking his medication.

"Outreach teams" will now be equipped to check on patients released into the community; more money will equip beds in hospital for that small number of patients who cannot cope on their own. Secure units will take those who are a danger to themselves, or to the public.

The Government should not go too far in reversing com-

munity release, however. The vast majority of released patients are no danger to anyone. Three-quarters of a million patients were released in the first five years of the 1990 Community Care Act, which accelerated the shift to care in the community, while 34 murders had been committed by patients within a year of release. Any murder is a tragedy; but there have been only a tiny number when weighed against the gains in humanity under the scheme. Mr Dobson has to be ready to help those released while still restraining those judged really dangerous.

"Care in the community" has too often meant "dumping in the community", with the most vulnerable people in our society wandering the streets in no position to fend for themselves. There can be no guarantee that Mr Dobson's measures will prevent further tragedies; government will need to match its fine words with hard cash. But for demonstrating his commitment to the mentally ill, for acting in a field where there are few plaudits and fewer votes to be won, Mr Dobson deserves our applause.

Animals have no rights, but we still have duties towards them

MARTYRDOM is attention-seeking with the harshest of outcomes. It is a peculiar act, not just because it demands the painful sacrifice of one's own life, but because it is a suicide born, perversely, of optimism. It believes that the act of self-negation can change the world for the better.

Barry Horne, the animal rights hunger striker now nearing death, has elected to add the martyr's garland to the list of tactics with which he hopes to end animal experimentation in laboratories. By starving himself, he has chosen a death associated with cases of human struggle.

The robust response to this is to say that he is a loony, some of whose supporters have threatened to kill other humans after he has gone. It isn't that easy, I'm afraid. A civilised and morally responsive society should take seriously the concerns of protesters, even if these are raised in ways we find questionable.

"True freedom," wrote Rosa Luxemburg in one of her wiser insights, "is the freedom of those who think differently."

To underline this point, unheeded by the Bolsheviks and their heirs, Jan Palach burnt himself to death after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. A few years later, inspired by Palach's example and its impact on world opinion, a Protestant priest self-immolated in East Germany to draw attention to the country's human rights record.

Were they wrong to do so? I have no outright answer to this question. My moral hunch tells me that they were at fault, because they caused

themselves, their families and those who had to deal with the consequences of their actions great anguish. But they also had a certain justification in using shocking tactics because, in both cases, the state refused to engage in discussion of their grievances and forbade mention of them in the media. Their suicides were intended to force attention onto conditions about which the authorities was implacably silent.

Democracies, on the other hand, are obliged to engage in argument with people: even with those who do not accept their peaceful terms. That is why Margaret Thatcher's refusal to allow the voice of Gerry Adams to be broadcast was so disturbing.

Horne operates in an open society, but one which is deeply confused about the status of animals and what claim they have on us. In his muddled and often destructive way, he is forcing our attention onto an issue which demands a structured public debate. The reason there should be a Royal Commission on the treatment of animals in laboratories (and in farms and sport, for that matter) is not that a man on self-imposed death-row says there should be, but because we badly need to sort out our own contradictory views on the matter.

The more we learn about animal consciousness - not least because of some of the experiments the anti-vivisectionists condemn - and the more we learn of their ability to feel physical pain and psychological distress, the more solicitous we should be about their welfare.

At present, we apply lax standards



ANNE MCELVOY
In his muddled way, Barry Horne is forcing attention on to an issue which needs public debate

to animals raised for food and increasingly anthropomorphic standards to the others. Some two decades ago, the pop-star Alice Cooper bit the head off chicken and Ozzy Osbourne decapitated a bat (it turned out to have been a dead one, but he did not take the precaution of checking), the response was one of revulsion and concern for Messers Cooper and Osbourne's states of mind, rather than for the animals. I suspect that today, such antics would arouse a rush of furious sympathy for the creatures.

So the protest movement is on the winning side of the argument when it comes to the public's increasing sensibility to animal distress. Most of us are not convinced by the anti-speciesist argument that it is better not to find a cure for cancer than to

experiment on a rat. But we doubt that rats should suffer in order to make recreational drugs safer or that meat-producing animals should be turned into hormonal factories on legs for the sake of man's taste and profit.

Problems like these should command the attention of government in the same way that the future of human cloning or embryology does. The great weakness of the fundamentalist animal rights movement is the philosophical and strategic error it makes by associating the protection of animals with the notion of equal rights with mankind.

I'll say it again in the full knowledge that my desk will be full of furious letters disagreeing: animals do not have rights, in any sense of the word which is helpful in the battle to preserve them from harm inflicted by humans. The classic response to this statement is: "Neither do babies, or people in a permanent vegetative state or the senile elderly." But human beings have the capacity to be bearers of rights and are entitled, if incapable of exercising their own will, to have these rights enforced for them. The most loyal Lassie or the most clever Babe of a pig, on the other hand, do not consciously exercise their virtues, however winning to human beings they appear. They cannot morally choose to behave well or badly.

The expansion and enforcement of rights alone does not make a wholesome society. For too long, the intellectual left believed that it did and thus shares responsibility for conditions in which far more people know their

rights than know their duties. The result is a neglect - and not only where animals are concerned - of other values which hold society together: reason, compassion, the duty of care and a sense of concern and reverence towards the world around us.

Our duties towards animals are based, not on any shared rights status but for the reason the saintly brother of Father Zossima gives in *The Brothers Karamazov*: "Everyone is responsible for everyone and everything."

My grandfather was an otherwise straightforward Victorian autocrat who took to animal welfare with a zeal that was considered rather odd in a rural and mining area where animals were used for work. He taught me this poem, which I would be grateful if any reader versed in 19th century protest verse could source:

*It would ring the bells of heaven with the loudest peal for years
If the person lost his senses and the people came to theirs
And he and they together got down in angry prayers
For little blind pig-ponies and dancing dogs and bears.*

Prayers, angry or otherwise, are not what Horne and his sympathisers consider to be a sufficient response to their demands. But behind the pathos, the old lines make a point which should be their strongest argument. We owe it to animals to respect their well-being and to re-evaluate their conditions as our knowledge about them expands because it is part of our moral status as humans to bear responsibility for them.

THE UNIVERSAL Declaration of Human Rights is rightly praised for its role in focusing the world's attention on crimes against human dignity. It has been used to oppose apartheid in South Africa, Communist repression in Eastern Europe and many other human rights violations. Why, then, has the failed to make Sudan the focus of world condemnation even though its dictatorship is arguably the worst human rights violator in the world? In

presenting the Declaration, Ambassador Charles Malik of Lebanon expressed confidence that it would "serve as a potent critic of existing practices and help to transform reality". To an extent, those hopes have been realized. With American leadership, they could also be realized in Sudan. What better way to mark the anniversary of a document born of the determination that mass suffering should not have to be in vain? The New York Times, US

MONITOR
ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

AMERICAN WOMEN are still victims of violence and discrimination. Black women suffer from racism in addition to gender discrimination. In 39 states homosexuals can be dismissed from work because of their sexual proclivities. Federal and state laws guarantee minority rights. They ban discrimination based on race or gender in work, housing, and

education. They guarantee freedom of speech, religion, the establishment of societies, and the right to a fair trial. Despite all these guarantees, serious violations of human rights continue to take place regularly. Why is the American eye jaundiced, only seeing what takes place in other countries? Al Ayam, Bahrain

IN 50 years, human rights have entered the mainstream of international discourse. Even

the harshest tyrant uses the language of rights if only to distort its universal meaning. In a world where abuses are a daily problem there can be no blind spots. Nelson Mandela saw the Declaration as "a ray of hope at one of our darkest hours". Mrs Roosevelt deserves our thanks for her role in drafting a blueprint for a better future. But the job was not finished that December: it is a work still in progress. Canberra Times, Australia

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am ready to answer before my people and the whole world for what happened."
Aslan Maskhadov,
Chechen President

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"People say law but they mean money."
Ralph Emerson,
American essayist



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PANDORA

ALUN MICHAEL'S campaign to become leader of the new Welsh Assembly has taken another tumble on the downward slope. On Monday Pandora reported that the Secretary of State for Wales sustained a double blow when only 25 people attended the first of his devolution tour meetings at Newport Civic Centre last week, whilst, in the same building, Newport West Labour Party voted 23-3 to back Michael's rival for the nomination, Rhodri Morgan.

The latest hiccup occurred in Neath, constituency of Peter Hain, junior Welsh Office Minister and Michael's campaign manager. Neath Labour Party's General Management Committee voted 20-16 in favour of Rhodri Morgan. Luckily Michael was not speaking at the same venue this time.

HEADS WERE turned in the Commons on Monday when the MP for Preseli, Jackie Lawrence, arrived for the start of a new parliamentary week - her hair dyed from brown to blonde. A somewhat amazed Lawrence told Pandora: "I've only been back two hours and already the telegraph wire is buzzing." Stepping back from her amazement at the parliamentary grapevine, which is naming her the Marilyn Monroe of Pembrokeshire, the MP admitted that she had died her hair to mask greyness. "As everyone knows, you can't go back to your original colouring," she said. Lawrence confided.

WHEN THE Washington National Airport was renamed the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport by a narrow margin in Congress this February, Democrats were dismayed. But this was just the beginning, as Grover Norquist, chairman of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, explains: "We have two goals; to get something named after Ronald Reagan in all 50 states, and have as many [things] named after Reagan as there are for John F. Kennedy, a suitable honour given Reagan's accomplishment as President." Reaganisation doesn't stop at home, Norquist tells the *Washington Times*: "We're dealing with [governments] around the world, looking to name things for Reagan internationally, such as we've done for Churchill here in America." Is there a place in Britain for the Ronald and Margaret Tunnel of Love?

TOUGH TORY MP David Davis, not known for his sentimental displays of emotion, was seen on American television this weekend hugging his friend Victor Daley. Thirty years ago, during the Vietnam war, Daley succeeded in a dangerous helicopter rescue of fellow soldiers. Davis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions but, in the confusion of the war, the Pentagon lost the papers. He received his award last week at a ceremony in Iowa that David Davis flew out to attend. As Chairman of the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee, Davis is normally the hammer of bureaucratic incompetence. However, the MP was tolerant of the Pentagon's error: "If they hadn't screwed up, his sons and friends would not have had this chance to celebrate his outstanding courage."

THAT FAMOUS football disciplinarian, referee David Elleray, will be putting a few more noses out of joint as he joins a local campaign against noise pollution in Harrow. The Premier League referee and former Harrow School housemaster will be quietly blowing his whistle on loud music and showing the red card to noisy neighbours who, he tells the *Harrow Leader*, "shatter the peace and cause annoyance". No doubt Elleray's well-documented run-ins with Gordon Strachan and David Beckham will have provided invaluable training ground for this new local hero in the making.

Are human rights an optional extra?



JULIE FLINT
Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN is complicit in a genocidal war in Sudan

THERE IS no statement of intent more moving than the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the wounds of the Holocaust still raw, the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948 deplored the "disregard and contempt for human rights (that) have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind" and demanded that "human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want".

But on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the United Nations often seems more concerned with dispensing aid than defending human rights. At the Sudan, the UN's Special Representative, its human rights monitors, and its aid agencies with multi-million dollar investments in despotic states seldom use their economic clout to fight for the victims of despotism. And concern to protect aid programmes, to keep aid flights going out and donor dollars coming in, has at times led the UN to turn its back on the victims of aggression

— thereby ensuring that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights fails to be a declaration of universal human rights.

Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN's disregard for human rights in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan — an area that should be of special interest to Britain — has made it complicit in another policy of annihilation: a genocidal war against a people whose society is a

model of political and religious tolerance, whose very existence threatens the National Islamic Front's (NIF) project of a conformist Islamic extremism.

The Nuba, an amalgam of black African tribes in Arab-dominated northern Sudan, are looking into the abyss. The photographs of George Rodger and Lemi Riefenstahl have become part of the immortal iconography of Africa. But the Nuba themselves are fighting for survival.

Long a despised minority in Sudan, many Nuba took up arms in 1985 alongside the southern-dominated Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Reprisals followed. The mountains were blockaded and a war to suppress the SPLA insurrection grew into a scorched-earth Holy War. A programme of forced relocation moved more than 250,000 Nuba villagers into distant "peace camps" where they are tortured and killed, denied food and medicine, and pressed-ganged into the ever-growing "Peoples' Defence Forces" as accomplices in their own destruction.

Women are raped — with the express intent of creating a generation of non-Nuba children — and put to

work in mechanised farms that enrich the NIF and degrade the soil. Children are separated from their parents and sent away for military training and Islamic indoctrination.

Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN aid operation mandated to work in all war-affected regions of Sudan, pumps resources into the government-controlled side of the mountains, where aid is deployed as a weapon to lure the Nuba away from their resistance, but acquiesces in the government's refusal to allow relief into rebel-controlled areas.

This year the NIF's war of starvation brought famine to the Nuba Mountains. In May, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan made a solemn commitment to get relief into the mountains. Seven months later, the Nuba are still waiting. OLS has spent a million dollars a day in southern Sudan, but has not put a single bag of grain into rebel-controlled areas. Hundreds of Nuba have died from hunger. Thousands have fled into government hands.

Despite this, on their own and away from international attention, the Nuba have established a civilian administration, a judicial system,

an embryonic police force, a nursing school and teacher-training college. They have trained human rights monitors, organised a religious tolerance conference and taken a popular vote on whether to fight on or surrender. (After six days' debate, they voted overwhelmingly to fight.)

But the UN is today an integral part of Khartoum's arsenal and Nuba leader Youssef Kuwa has warned that the Nuba will be committing suicide if they continue to let aid enter government-controlled areas unopposed. Fifty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declared that "Man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression" the UN has become an accomplice to tyranny in Sudan.

Clare Short is correct in asserting that politics, not aid, is the solution to Africa's problems. But in Sudan the injustice of aid is part of the problem. How can the international community broker a peace if it carries no credibility in the Nuba Mountains? Aid is politics, and the politics of aid are killing the Nuba.

My advice to Mr Hague on how to regain popularity



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Given his lack of obvious unpleasant traits, it's hard to work out why his poll ratings are so low

MY ALL-TIME low point in opinion polls was in the first months of the Labour-run GLC when, after a horrendous avalanche of attacks from Fleet Street (as it then was), an audience selection poll revealed that 35 per cent of Londoners thought I was doing a good or satisfactory job, while 52 per cent thought I was bad or appalling. I thought that was as bad as things could get until John Major's satisfaction rating dipped briefly to just under 20 per cent. Of course, William Hague would die for such figures.

Given how highly MPs of all parties rate Hague's performance, the lack of support for him and other unpleasant character traits, it's hard to work out why his ratings are so low but he is even managing to trail the Tory Party. The Tories have now seized the record for worst polling record by a major party from the Labour Party, which gained this unhappy accolade during Michael Foot's leadership prior to the 1983 election.

As any good Marxist will tell you, individuals do not determine the course of history, the social and economic forces that sweep through the world do. While this is a generalisation, I think it contains the core of the truth about the relevance of individuals to the political process. It's clearly not an accident that the demise of the Tory Party coincides with the defeat of New Gingrich in America, while almost all the governments of Europe are now under the control of the left or centre-left. Given that only 10 years ago the predominant ideology of governments in America and Europe was firmly in the hands of right-wing free marketeers, clearly something bigger than Hague is at work.

I have no doubt that if the Tories had selected Ken Clarke as leader they would now be doing better in

the polls and Clarke would be having much fun on the vexed question of Britain's over-inflated interest rates. But the difference would merely be a matter of degree, and Labour would still be on course for a second election victory.

Hague has a particular problem that most other right-wing party leaders today are spared. For he cannot avoid the issue of Europe and the euro, bearing down on his party with the destructive force of a tactical nuclear weapon. Hague's problem is that the Tory Party has always been a coalition between big business and the petty bourgeoisie, and on the issue of Europe, their interests clash. Big business is not prepared to support a political party that might hold back from joining the euro. Every corporate boss knows that, while Britain staying out of the euro for two or three years presents no long-term problem, the Tory policy of remaining outside for at least a decade would put most of Britain's big multinationals at a severe disadvantage. Indeed, such a long-term exclusion from the euro could

lead many corporations to consider relocating their main centres of operation to the euro zone.

The other component of the great Tory coalition are the thousands of small businesses throughout Britain that, since time immemorial, have staffed and run their local Conservative associations. While big business can compete on the European playing field, and trade unionists should be protected by Europe's social agenda, the middle class is the group most likely to be squeezed by the euro project.

This is Hague's dilemma. The rank and file of his party, believing they are acting to defend their standard of living, have carried out a veritable ethnic cleansing of Tory MPs, picking on the slightest Europhile tendencies. Much of the rhetoric behind this purge has been xenophobic and, particularly, anti-German, but the driving fear has been the harsher economic climate threatened by closer European integration. As long as this is the predominant ethos in the modern Tory party, big business will continue to work for the return of Blair. If it began to look as though Hague might actually be moving towards an election victory based on support from Conrad Black's *Daily Telegraph* and the Murdoch empire (the objection of which to Europe is, primarily because it stands to benefit more from American economic dominance), I suspect Britain's great corporations would act decisively to thwart that victory.

So Hague's dilemma is, in reality, insoluble. He can't win without the support of big business and he can only regain that support by reversing the party's policy. Any attempt to do this would plunge his party into a civil war that would make Labour's infighting of the early Eighties look like a Methodist tea party.



Churchill looks on as Hague reflects on the Tories' problems

If this were not bad enough, Hague has the other problem that his party is still tied to all the free-market dogma of the Thatcher-Reagan years as the rest of the world is moving on to talk about managing trade and capital flows in order to tame the market. The most dramatic example of this is George Soros, who on Monday's *Newsnight*, attacked the rules by which international investors operated. These, he argued, did not have enough regard for social consequences. He condemned the dogma of the "moral force" of the market. Markets, he said, were not moral but amoral.

Yesterday, asked whether Western governments and multinational organisations had begun to understand that corruption is a force not just for economic instability but also for political instability, he replied emphatically: "Not sufficiently." He added: "There is always somebody who pays, and international business is generally the main source of corruption." He also attacked the "intercine battle between the oligarchs" in Russia, where Yeltsin's

robotic assumption of all the neo-liberal nostrums has led to the deepest and most prolonged recession in any country in history. Mr Soros will be subscribing to *Socialist Economic Bulletin* at this rate.

Given that Hague cannot reopen the issue of Europe, his only chance to regain some popular appeal would be to put the Tories at the forefront of the fight to protect Britain from the ravages of the unregulated international economy. Such a stance would not be out of line with the broad message of the election campaign of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which managed to capture 3 per cent of the Tory vote. It is being taken up by right-wing populists in America and Europe. But it would put Hague in the same camp as Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's National Front — not a happy prospect. Perhaps the best advice I could give Hague is to resign, spend more time with Ffion and let some other poor sod try and square these circles. Only someone as mad as John Redwood is fit for this unhappy role.

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Sorrrows carried in a snail's shell

FROM THE time they are born, people must build bridges one after another to all those around them, deepening their links with other people and things, thus creating their own world to live in. If such bridges are not built, or if the bridge fails to fulfil its function, or if the will to build bridges is lost, people become helplessly isolated and lose their peace.

I think, too, that our bridges must reach not only outward but inward, continuously connecting one to one's innermost self, discovering one's true self, and being an incentive to the proper setting up of the individual self.

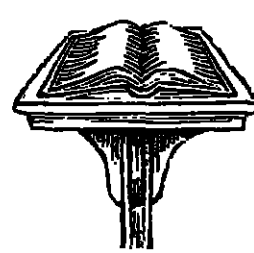
Although I was caught up in evasive life because of the war, the protecting hand of my elders was always there, so my childhood was a time of relative tranquillity. Nevertheless, the repeated changes of life environment were hard to bear for a child, and I sometimes felt ill at ease with my surroundings and even was at odds with my own self, and I remember there were times when I was quite exhausted. At such times, how much did I enjoy and how greatly was I encouraged by a few books that I had by me, which, though they could not solve each and every problem, helped me to go on!

While I was still a little girl, I was told a story of a snail. Since my memory of it is blurred, I will talk about it following the book on which it was probably based: *The Sorrows of a Little Snail* by Nirmal Nankichi. Suddenly one day, a snail became aware that the shell upon his back was stuffed full with sorrows, and went off to see his friend, saying that he could no longer go on living, and pouring out his tale of woe. But his snail friend said: "You are not alone in that. The shell on my back, too, is filled full of sorrows."

The little snail went to another friend and then another friend and told them the same tale of woe, but from every friend the same reply came back. So the snail at last came to realise that everyone had his burden of sorrows to bear. "It is not only me: I too must bear my own burden of sorrows."

The story ends when this snail decides to stop bemoaning his lot.

What age would I have been at that time? Since Mother and



PODIUM

EMPERESS MICHIKO
The Empress of Japan reminisces about her childhood reading to a conference in New Delhi on books for the young

Grandfather and my uncles and aunts, read to me and told me tales up to about my second year in elementary school, I think I would have been between four and seven.

At that age, I had not yet known anything you could call a great sorrow. For that reason no doubt, when I learnt that in the end the little snail had stopped bemoaning his lot, I simply thought, "oh, good!" That was all. I gave no special

thought to the whole matter. But afterwards, that story kept coming to mind: it would seem that the sorrows that filled the shell quite full, and the sudden awareness of this, and the anxiety that made the snail feel he could no longer go on living, were all indelibly engraved on my memory. As I grew a little older, I could no longer simply conclude "oh, good!", and I even had at times some vague, uneasy intimations that just to go on living was no easy thing. In spite of that, I certainly did not dislike this story.

Looking back on it now, what did my childhood reading do for me? Above all, it gave me pleasure, and then laid the foundation for my later reading during adolescence. At times it gave me roots; at times it gave me wings. These roots and wings were a great help to me as I threw bridges out and in, expanding bit by bit and nurturing my own personal world.

Reading gave me opportunities to ponder over joy and sorrow. It was through reading books, with many kinds of grief delineated in them, that I could come to know how deeply people other than myself can feel, and that I could perceive

the many hurts they bear. When I think that there are children who go through griefs and pains beyond comparison with mine, maybe I should refrain from saying that in my own sheltered childhood, too, there were such things as sorrows. But, in any life whatever, there is pain and sorrow. The tears of every single child have their specific weight. For me, when I was caught up in my own small sorrows, it was a blessing to be able to find joy in books. Learning of life's sorrows to some extent adds more depth to one's own life, and deepens thought for others. Similarly, coming in touch with joy in books, the joy that was the wellspring of creative works by writers past and present, imparts the joy of living to the reader, and when at times he is overcome by helplessness, may help restore his hope in life, providing wings for him to take flight once again.

In order that children may cope with life in this world of sorrows, as well as preparing them to endure sorrows, I think it is so important to foster in them hearts sensitively tuned to joy.

SABE: PIG IN TI
Director: George M
Starring: Magda S
EG Daily

The follow-up to a "sheep pig" into it becomes the million Knobsabout come favour of a big verges on the side on Miller's skin kids will make of it West End: ABC Court Road, Barb House, Elephant Leicester Square Camden. The Marble Arch, Old Virgin Palace

DANCING AT
Director: Peter C
Starring: Wendy Kathy Burke Less a dance, set set sage pinpoints Catholic family in backdoor is Mary the brood's ekes Michael Gambon it's not enough, at all too ready ap West End: Curs

IT'S A WOMAN
Director: Frank C
Starring: James Barrymore Capra's festive complex than with James how dreamy never been like existence a thick veil making of them to the Hilleman West End: C Phoenix Cines

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Director: Ashi
Starring: Penn Love him or in a tear Resting

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ELIZABETH
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Skeeter Day and his is still the House of

FEAR
Terry Gilliam cartooner into a stand-on Thompson West End: Squares

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That sinking feeling – again



ANNA SOMERS COCKS
Why do the Italians have such difficulty deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city?

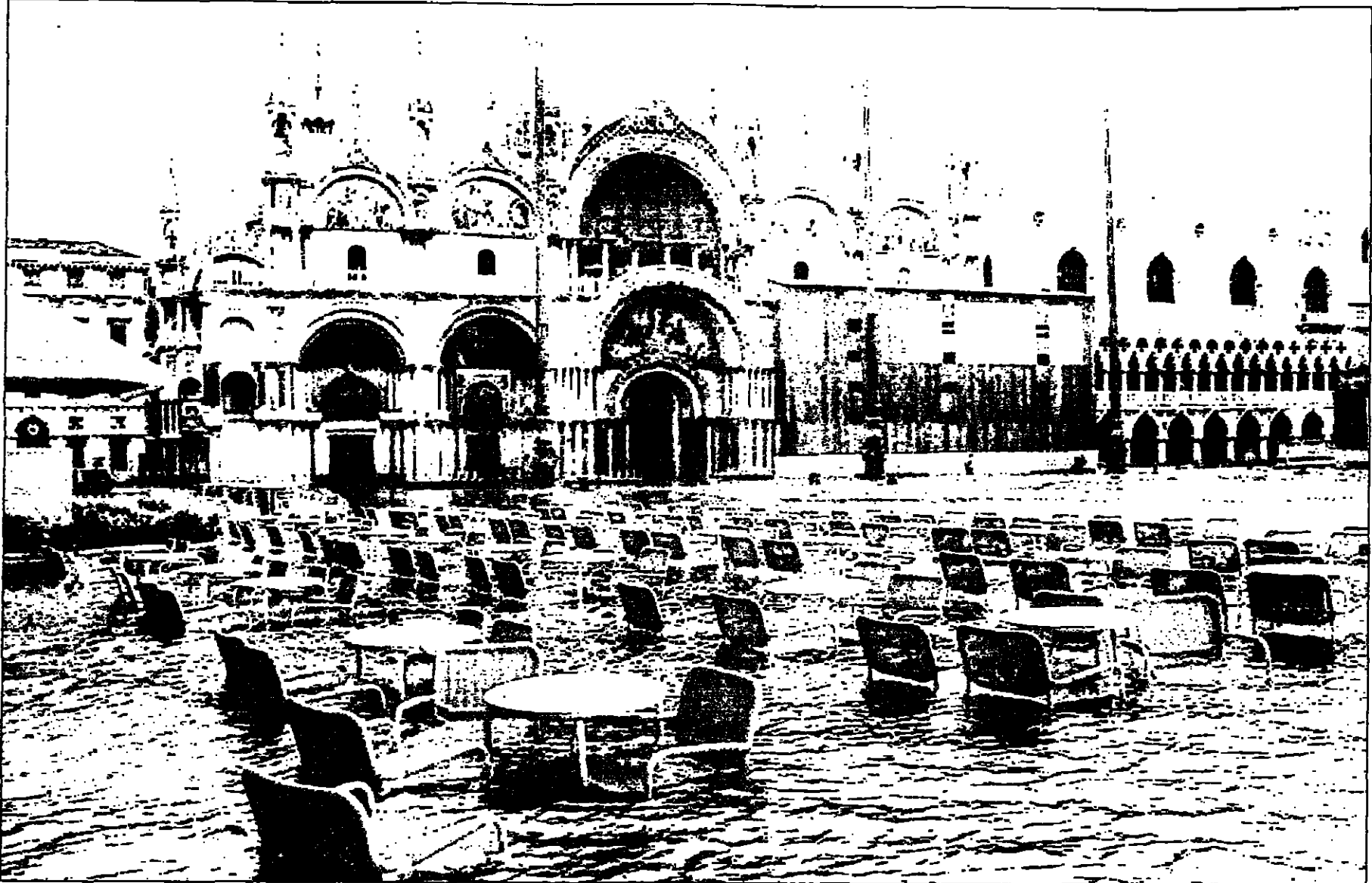
ON THURSDAY if the decision is not delayed yet again, Edo Ronchi, the Italian Minister for the Environment, is expected to reject the plan to build mobile barriers at the three openings from the lagoon of Venice into the Adriatic.

This is despite the fact that he has before him a report (completed this summer by five eminent experts from institutions including MIT and the Institute for Environmental Studies in Amsterdam) which says that the barriers are ecologically safe and effective defences; this is despite the fact that the report was commissioned by the Italian government itself; this is despite the fact that St Mark's Square was under more than a metre of water again last week, and will be dozens of times more this year. We can be sure of that. At the beginning of the century, St Mark's Square was flooded about seven times a year; by 1989 it was 40 times in the year and in 1996 it was 99 times.

Even the politician who himself has to wade through the water, the mayor of Venice, makes sibilant statements when asked whether he is in favour of the barriers; he is not. He is against them, or for them, but says that they need to be studied further and that their financing needs to be clarified.

Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city? Much of it comes down to the cat's cradle of coalitions that is Italian politics at state, regional and city levels. Thus Massimo d'Alema, the Prime Minister, upsets the Greens at his peril because he depends on their support to stay in power, and the Minister of the Environment is a Green. Mayor Cacciari of Venice is also dependent on Green support for his position.

And yet the evidence for a declining state of affairs is incontrovertible. The seaweed lines on the marble steps to the Venetian palaces show how much higher the water now laps than when they were built. This is partly because the whole of north-east Italy is subsidising, and partly because, after the Second World War, water was pumped from the subsoil by the factories on the nearby mainland (this has now ceased).



St Mark's Square lies under a metre of water last month after heavy rains left Venice flooded once again

In addition, as we all know, the seas are rising. Scientists worldwide generally agree that by the middle of the next century, the waters will be about 20cm higher everywhere, including the Mediterranean. Weather patterns are also changing, leading to more low-pressure systems and storms. So quite apart from the frequent small floods, the risk of a storm surge tide (a low-pressure system coinciding with a high tide and strong wind) of the kind that put the whole of Venice under nearly two metres of water in 1966, is greater than ever. Experts say that it is not a question whether it will happen, merely when. It could be tomorrow, this being the flooding season in Venice when everyone keeps their gumboots at the ready.

Across the world – in south-east England, the Netherlands and parts of the east coast of the US, for instance – populations and politicians have accepted the global situation and are planning for the future. They are preparing to add billions to the money they have already invested in their sea defences. By contrast, Italy, which has this especially fragile and lovely creation to protect, has managed to turn the issue into a punchball for party politics and

nothing has been done – nor does it look as though it will be.

Back in 1981, a scheme for mobile barriers at the three openings between the lagoon and the Adriatic was first developed and went on being improved, until in 1992 the prototype was tested successfully. It works on the principle of a series of hinged flaps that normally lie invisibly on the seabed but are raised when needed. When down, ships and tides can move through the mouths of the lagoon as usual.

But over the last 10 years, opposition in Italy to these barriers has grown. It is of three sorts. Big business fears that if the barriers have to be closed frequently, ships and, in particular, the petrol tankers entering the lagoon to get to the refineries on the other side, will be held up, and money will be lost. The Green objection is that the lagoon has been as sinfully mistreated as the rainforests of the Amazon, by deepening the shipping channel for the said tankers, by building fish farms, and by polluting it with phosphates washed down from the agriculture in the hinterland. If we could only return to the good old ways of the Venetians under the dogs, they say, then the flooding

problem would be much reduced (but they don't predict by how much it would be reduced, nor does anyone in this camp concede that the modern world's ecology bears no relationship to what it was 200 years ago – which is paradoxical, considering that these people are ecologists).

The short-term pragmatists' objection is that, because the barriers are expensive – an estimated £1.5bn spread over the eight years they would take to build – there might be less money for the other things that need doing in Venice, such as dredging the canals. This seems to be behind the apparently perverse reluctance on the part of Venice's mayor to see his city protected.

The truth is that there is a fundamental confusion in people's minds which leads them to think that it is a choice between ecological virtue or some kind of barrier, when it is not a question of either/or, but both. The lagoon must be looked after as tenderly as when the dogs used to wade the waters with a ring, and yet we must also accept that conditions have changed fundamentally in the last 200 years, and new measures must be built to protect Venice. The historical Venetians themselves did not shrink from innovations, such as the great sea walls that still defend the lagoon.

It must also be accepted that no barriers will be the final solution. Just as the Thames Barrier comes to the planned end of its economic life after 50 years, in 2030, and will be succeeded by something else, so the price of keeping Venice for our grandchildren will be endless vigilance and expense.

Is Venice worth the expense? An evaluation of the risk and cost benefit involved needs to be made for the city if only because the people who say that the barriers are too expensive have already, however unconsciously, decided that Venice is not worth the investment. With their vast Delapian for defending themselves from the sea, the Dutch have already brought such cost/risk evaluations down to a fine art and could give lessons in how to proceed.

All that is needed is the will to do these things. In the early Nineties, a European politician called Carlo Ripa di Meana, an Italian, suggested that the Venice should be declared independent of Italy – a sort of San Marino – so that the chaotic politics and bureaucracy would no longer get in the way of looking

after it properly. Italian public opinion was deeply offended and the idea was rightly derided.

Venice is, after all, Italy's glory – but also its responsibility. It is the duty of its government to end 15 years of indecision as soon as possible. Then, when it has decided to act, the rest of Europe and the world can help with the costs, if help is needed. But until Italy does decide, the rest of us can only stand by anxiously, fearing the big flood with all the dreadful destruction and perhaps loss of life that it will bring with it.

What is almost worse is that we are already watching the gradual erosion of the social, economic and physical fabric of the city by the dozens of small *acqua alte*, as every year, more and more young, productive people leave the city for ever, and the economy becomes more and more dependent on tourism alone.

As the highly successful manufacturer of the Aprilia motor scooter, Ivano Beggio, said at a recent symposium in Venice on how to revive its economy: "What businessman in his right mind will invest seriously in a city where his employees have to wear gumboots to work one day in three?"

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOUG MCAVOY



The NUT's General Secretary responds to our defence of the National Literacy Project

THE NATIONAL Literacy Project is a success story. Its development had all the characteristics that promote school improvement: the enthusiasm of teachers who knew they were in on something big; a decent time-scale for implementation (two years); quality professional development; and partnership between those responsible for the project and those at the chalk face.

With such preconditions for excellence, it is hardly surprising that children in the project leapt ahead by eight to twelve months, though it is cause for celebration.

So why is the Government's successor literacy strategy problematic?

At the core is a fact that the Government still has difficulty in recognising. Critical to its future is an entitlement within which teachers' professional views are central.

Instead, the Government attempted its version of the Great Leap Forward with a six-month time-scale, and with a string of veiled threats about the dire consequences for schools if they did not operate the strategy.

Remarkably, the Government's attempt to pretend that the Literacy Strategy was a requirement on schools was rejected by the Chief Inspector himself, who told the NUT that it was not Ofsted's job "to comment upon the extent to which the school has taken on the literacy and numeracy strategies".

For teachers to back the literacy initiative enthusiastically, they have to feel that their enthusiasm and commitment are recognised. Enthusiasm and commitment cannot be imposed. They have to come from teachers themselves, a lesson which the Government must learn for its latest big project, the Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession.

Memoirs of a time traveller

WEDNESDAY BOOK

IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE:
MY LIFE AS AN ENGLISHMAN
BY BRIAN ALDISS, LITTLE, BROWN, £20



"SCIENCE FICTION has a remarkable and expanding history this century. It was developed from cheap paperbacks and magazines to science all forms of culture, whether acknowledged or otherwise. How strange that it is not better attended to by those deep in literary studies. The loss is theirs." So writes Brian Aldiss, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and one of the five major British writers of science fiction (and much else) in this century. The others are JG Ballard, John Wyndham, Olaf Stapledon and John Christopher. If one were to add to those names the major British writers who have moved in and out of science fiction, the list would take in Kingsley Amis, HG Wells, William Golding, Rudyard Kipling, CS Lewis, Doris Lessing, Anthony Burgess and even Salman Rushdie.

And yet (and this is the continuing burden of Aldiss's memoirs), the genre is confined to the outskirts of "proper literature". To acknowledge that one likes it in literary society is to confess heretofore. Aldiss tells how a journalist from

a leading broadsheet was sent to take the piss out of a conference of science fiction writers. He liked what he saw and wrote about it in friendly terms – only to have his copy republished, so to speak, by his editor.

Long ago, CP Snow wrote of the "Two Cultures", science and the arts. He got it wrong. The two cultures are science and anti-science. At my school during the uneasy transition from war to peace, two programmes were introduced: one to introduce the scientists to "culture" ("Civilising the C Block" it was called), one to introduce the classicists to science. Brilliantly conceived by a pioneer in the field, it was still bitterly resented, even sulked through, by the cream of the classical sixth form – Oxbridge open scholars, one and all. The two cultures had already been established in the run-in to O-levels, if not in the indifferent way that mathematics was taught at primary and prep schools.

Aldiss's autobiography takes him from a lower middle-class childhood in the pre-war West Country through war service in India, Burma and Sumatra (in the Signals) to Oxford. He never attended the university there, but the city remained for him the focus of his life thereafter – continually deserted, as continually returned to. I met him briefly there in 1950. He was working in Parker's bookshop, on the Turl, having moved there from Sanders' bookshop on the High, three stories down from the double room in Oriel in which I celebrated my 21st birthday. Both shops have now disappeared, Parker's into an annexe of Blackwell's.

These dates place him fair and square among the British school of writers usually and erroneously identified as the Angry Young Men. Its leading figures were the young Kingsley Amis, John Wain, John Braine and Iris Murdoch. Essentially, they were analogues of the 18th-century picaresque novelists; what they shared was a settled and secure childhood, suddenly in-

terrupted by the war. At the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen, it dispatched them hither and thither all over the world, subjecting them to control by, often, third-rate self-important shits, in conditions of primitive if not barbaric disorder.

Survival with one's sense of selfhood unbroken by all the assaults on it was all-important; and rebellion against attempts by military and other authorities to humiliate and break them is a common theme of this group's early novels.

Aldiss differed only in that he served in south-east Asia. His use of this wartime experience in the Tom Shubbs novels (beginning with *A Hand-*

reared Boy) was uproariously memorable.

Aldiss's memoirs are maddeningly bitty, often reading like jottings in a writer's notebook. But out of these jottings there emerges, pointilliste-style, a literary and confessional autobiography of the first order. This is not merely because the life he has led and the books he has written put him fairly and squarely on the border between "respectable" literature and science fiction, but also for the unnervingly accurate picture he gives of his (and my) generation. His is a book to be dipped into, read slowly and savoured for its continuous evocation of the past 75 years of the century in an England which his generation loved and fought for.

In a recent article the young Tory historian, Andrew Roberts, expressed his envy of those who lived through and fought in the Second World War. This is a book which should be read by all the instant geniuses of the media today. There is, after all, something to be said for being an old fart and telling it like it was.

DONALD CAMERON WATT



Brian Aldiss: proof that there is something to be said for being an old fart

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WEDNESDAY POEM

OVER THE FIELDS
BY MAURA DOOLEY

Whoever heard of a seamless garment?
This is a sky scabby with stars,
a moon that eats a hole in the grass,
a night announced by the drone of a plane
and lit by tail lights.

There's owl screech and fox-bark,
wake them and the geese will laugh
blisters to your face.
But the phone still rings,
the television flickers,
over the fields wires hum.

Our poems this week come from 'Field Days', edited by Angela King and Sue Clifford for Common Ground. It costs £10 (inclusive) from Common Ground, PO Box 25309, London NW5 1ZA

César

THE FRENCH sculptor César was one of the original agents provocateurs of modern art. A member of the New Realism movement who enjoyed squashing automobiles and other metal objects to create his work, César often attracted controversy. Eventually, the darling of the avant-garde became so famous in his homeland that, in 1975, the French film industry asked him to create the statuette presented to actors as the country's equivalent of the Oscar. There could only be one name for the award: the César.

Born in 1921 along with a twin sister, César Baldaccini was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in Marseilles. "I'm a peasant, a self-taught man," he was fond of saying. "I didn't go to school, I played truant. Chance meetings in cafés mattered more to me than books. The street taught me the lessons of life."

Although he left school at 12 to work with his father, a barrel-maker, César would spend hours drawing. He was also influenced by his mother, who worked as a cleaning lady but loved Michelangelo, and he took evening classes at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Marseilles from 1935 to 1942.

After a year of forced labour under the Germans in the Var area with les Chantiers de la Jeunesse, he won a scholarship and studied at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Already a rebellious talent, César would infuriate his lecturers by ignoring their teachings and creating tiny figures out of metal or plaster.

Coming back to Marseilles in 1944, he struggled doing odd jobs and eventually returned north. He may have been in the right place at the right time but, for a struggling conceptual artist, life was hard. "At Les Deux Magots, I hung out with Jean Cocteau and Orson Welles. They went there because they were famous. I was sitting outside on the terrace because I didn't have anywhere else to go," he recalled later.

In the early Fifties, hammer and blowtorch in hand, César set about moulding and reshaping scrap metal found on rubbish tips and at the Villeteuse factory. "It doesn't cost me anything," was his justification. He created fantastic, eerie-looking animals (*Poisson, Chat, Chauve-souris, Rascasse, Moustique, Scorpion*), a veritable three-dimensional bestiary and human figures with tragic or comic expressions (*L'Homme Qui Marche*, produced in 1954, the year of his first show, at the Galerie Lucien Durand in Paris, *L'Homme de Draguignan, La Parisienne, La Grande Duchesse, Nus de Saint-Denis*).

He showed expressionist leanings. His work also betrayed the influence of Picasso, Duchamp, Brancusi, Giacometti and Germaine Richier. Indeed, César's new direction paralleled the *Arte Povera* movement in Italy and that of

France's own *matérialistes*, who used "lost and found" material to create their work.

A move to bigger metal panels, like the ones used by car manufacturers, made César's name. Soon he was bashing, beating and burning heavy and light metal alike. Solec moped, bedframes, bumpers, coffee-makers, tins, cans, crates and even fake Cartier watches seized by French customs; everything was fair game for César's squash-and-melt approach. It was only a matter of time before he graduated to compressing a whole car with a power hammer.

The resulting blocks of twisted steel invited grandiose intellectual interpretations. Ironic comment on the consumer society? Symbol of a decaying Western civilisation? In 1960, the metal cubes drove political and cultural commentators of both left and right to write reams of prose about the sculptor. His detractors waded in and called César a charlatan. Museums and collectors bought his sculptures all the same.

Solec mopeds, bedframes, cans, even fake Cartier watches seized by Customs; all were fair game for César's squash-and-melt approach

César would point out that "a ton of melted iron is not like a blank canvas. You have to feel and master the material, make it yours. It has its own life."

According to the art critic Ann Crémien, "the French establishment always has trouble with commercial success. César was a life force. Wherever he was, there was a buzz. People gravitated towards him, yet César refused to take himself seriously. He even compacted the wreckage of a friend's car after he'd been in a serious accident so the survivor could display the sculpture in his Paris living room. A masterstroke worthy of Andy Warhol!"

César also worked with more traditional materials like plaster, creating *Le Pouce*, a huge reproduction of his own thumb, which caused a sensation at the 1967 Salon de Mai in Paris as part of an exhibition entitled *Compressions et Expansions*. A 40ft tall variation now stands in La Défense, the Paris business district, while a 30ft-tall bronze version still welcomes visitors to the Musée d'Art Contemporain



César holding aloft a César. He designed the French film industry award in 1975

rain in Marseilles. Taking the commercial potential of the idea to its logical conclusion, the sculptor eventually made endless reproductions of his famous thumb, for every budget and in every size (including a thumb-size desktop model).

The discovery of polyurethane excited the artist even more: the foam-like compound which expanded or contracted according to the space available seemed tailor-made for him. In 1968, he came to London and demonstrated his new processes at the Tate Gallery. He was feted by the intelligentsia in Tokyo, Paris, New York and Helsinki.

In the late Sixties he created *Sein* ("Breast") by moulding the décolletage of a Crazy Horse dancer and then blowing up the dimensions to a monumental and breathtaking scale. Confronted with a symbol of their Freudian fixation, the French male-dominated media had a field day. César appeared on television and became a household name.

He didn't have much truck with official unveilings and functions and was happier when portrayed as a

bon vivant pottering around his workshop in his clogs and overalls. Always self-deprecating, he would go as far as declaring he was "useless, hopeless, worthless. I have no culture, no education whatsoever. I'm not an intellectual. I like to touch. It's my hands that make my head work. My sensibility drove me to create. I have a purely physical and organic relationship with art. Everything to me is tactile and instinctive."

He would sometimes bemoan the lack of "an art dealer to push the work in the United States. I have a difficult life," he claimed. "In fact, I've had several lives, several houses, several stages in my work. I don't disown any of it. I just ask people to interpret it differently."

In the Seventies, César lectured at l'Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts. He began a series of *Masques* by moulding his own bearded face in plaster and plaster. Many a French art student followed his lead. In 1975, he was approached by Georges Cravenne to fashion the film award statuette named after him, which was first presented the following

year. In 1976, he was also made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Even wider recognition came when one of his "compressions" was pictured on a French stamp in 1984. The same year he paid an *Hommage à Eiffel*, using material recycled from the Eiffel Tower, and when his *L'Homme du Futur* was installed in the small Burgundy town of Clamecy, it caused as much uproar as Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North* has in Gateshead.

In 1995, César built a 500-tonne wall of piled-up cars for the Venice film festival, while, last year, the *Jeu de Paume* in Paris mounted a huge retrospective which ran for four months. Unfortunately, Marseilles has so far balked at the cost of a César museum, even though he had presented his hometown with 186 of his works.

PIERRE PERRONE

César Baldaccini (César), sculptor: born Marseilles, France 1 January 1921; married 1960 Rosine Suzanne Groult (one daughter); died Paris 6 December 1998.

Professor Susan Strange

SUSAN STRANGE was one of the world's leading scholars in international relations and the major European figure in its sub-discipline of international political economy (IPE), the study of the activities of states and transnational agents in their efforts to influence markets and political life.

For a generation she wrote prodigiously and lectured to audiences in dozens of countries, in every continent. She left behind a remarkable legacy that few can match. She was highly regarded by colleagues and students in Europe, North America, Japan and elsewhere, many of them occupying prominent positions in national and international professional and public life. Her impact is hard to overestimate.

Strange's most enduring achievement was to institutionalise teaching and research into IPE in Britain. Many British universities that now boast flourishing graduate programmes in IPE have her to thank for establishing the first IPE graduate programme at the London School of Economics in 1984, against some robust opposition, it might be added. Ironically, the ability of the programme to attract high-fee-paying and high-quality foreign students silenced intellectual scepticism. In 1978 she was appointed Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at LSE.

She was also involved in the creation of several other graduate programmes, including one in Warwick University, and a generation of her former students holds teaching positions in all of them. Strange was one of the select few who enjoyed instant name recognition and easily filled large auditoriums. At the beginning of term her books are to be seen piled high in bookshops.

Susan Strange was born in 1923 and graduated with a First in Economics from LSE during the Second World War. She began a career in journalism, first at *The Economist* and then for *The Observer*, as the youngest White House correspondent of her time.

On her return to London in 1949, she also began to teach at University College, while she continued as *The Observer's* economics correspondent and an editorial writer. In 1965 she became a research fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House and subsequently directed its acclaimed transnational relations project. While at Chatham House she wrote *Sterling and British Policy* (1971), one of a number of significant projects during Andrew Shonfield's directorship of the institute.

Her intellectual contribution has been twofold and will endure, because its concerns have been absorbed into the mainstream of international relations thinking. The methodological issue of the failure of economics and international politics to engage with each other, as a matter of course and systematically, was addressed by Susan Strange in a justly famous paper entitled "International Politics and International Economics: a case of mutual neglect". If the issue now seems dated, it is precisely because a small band of scholars like her drew attention to its half-heartedness in the first place.

The other central aspect of her investigations was the impact of power politics on market outcomes and international organisations, apparently pursuing uncontroversial technical goals. In a celebrated piece, in 1982, she reflected unsparingly on the allegedly benign consequences of international regimes associated with them.

In her work on IPE, she was one of the few mainstream writers who remained robustly critical of what she considered selfishly irresponsible US policies, that she felt were inimical to the health of the world economy. She maintained that domestic politics and US constitutional arrangements were particularly to blame for this unhappy situation. She also dismissed as self-serving the widely propagated lament of its decline, suggesting, instead, that the US retained a huge advantage.

Strange was an early participant in the debates at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and LSE that turned into the tidal wave of IPE literature. This output has now become varied, often displays richness and taps into an important seam of policy-making issues, central to choices being made. Her book *States and Markets* (1988) was swiftly written and had its defects, but students bought it eagerly because the book provided an easily comprehensible unifying theme for the totality of IPE.

In 1986 she had already written *Casino Capitalism*, a prescient comment on the potential significance of increased international financial activity. Typically, she moved, on her official retirement, to a new career at the European University Institute in Florence in 1989. From Stanford of the London Business School to co-author *Rival States, Rival Firms: competition for world market shares* (1991). It won the George Terry award for its contribution to management studies.

Susan Strange embodied a certain kind of quintessential Englishness that was striking to an outsider like myself, the first PhD student she supervised. She was an iconoclast and perversive, a tradition that recalls a powerful, a tradition that recalls a powerful theme in English culture and history. She was no revolutionary; but she questioned prevailing nostrums with ill-concealed glee.

And even when she missed the target she did so imaginatively. This was her great asset, to be interesting even when she was wrong, a welcome contrast to the solemnities of carefully footnoted pedantry, that often arouses a sinking feeling of *déjà vu*. She belonged to a pedigree that echoed the Manchester School liberals, believing in the pragmatic possibilities of human improvement, although she had fewer ideological illusions. That she was the daughter of a renowned First World War flying ace somehow does not surprise.

Her life must also be judged remarkable for the many dimensions and qualities it combined. It remains a mystery how she managed to expand unforgiving time to be a mother to six children, a wife, write quite so much, lecture as well as travel widely. She married a fellow journalist at *The Observer*, Clifford Selly, in 1955, when she was already a career woman with two children. It was his sound judgement on the possibilities and limits of the real world in which she trusted.

The result was the outwardly contradictory synthesis in her work of imaginative analysis with caution in prescription. She had no time for any of the fashionable 1960s New Left Jacobinism, *de rigueur* for protest, in the period, against the ills of the world economy. Yet she held strong views against injustice, refusing to visit apartheid South Africa.

She was impatient of feminists carping about the unfairness of life, famously chiding them in her presidential address to the American International Studies Association in 1995; she was only the second non-American to hold the post. But she was also an exemplar of feminist success in the life that she led. Of men, she once said that they either belonged to cultures in which men liked women and enjoyed their company



International Relations at LSE

or they belonged to cultures that did not. She implied the need for a more complex standard for judging the first type in which men also seemed to evince greater interest in the female sexual persona.

Susan Strange was a good-humoured and fun person, willing to listen and cross swords good-naturedly with colleagues and students over a beer, never resorting to intellectual terrorism by wielding her authority. If she thought she had encountered an interesting idea she would yield with enthusiasm. Perhaps, she was also a little too demanding of effort from those around her to fulfil their potential. There was not a lot in her own life that would have given her pause over such average human infirmities in this regard.

A fortnight before her death she published *Mad Money*, a sequel to *Casino Capitalism*. True to form, she had never actually quit, retiring a second time, at 70, to a professorship at Warwick University when she left Florence. She clearly did not relish what she regarded as petty-fogging bureaucratic proprieties. But in a final act of help to IPE scholarship in Britain she secured, by her presence, a major grant from the Economic and Social Research Council, for Warwick University to study globalisation.

GAUTAM SEN

Susan Strange, scholar of international relations: born 9 June 1923; Lecturer in International Relations, University College London 1949-64; Research Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs 1965-76; German Marshall Fund Fellow, London School of Economics 1976-78; Montague Burton Professor of International Relations 1978-88; Professor of International Relations, European University Institute in Florence 1989-93; Professor of International Relations, Warwick University 1993-98; married 1942 Denis Merritt (died 1993; one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1955). 1955 Clifford Selly (two sons, one daughter; and one son deceased; died Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

The Rev Dr John Brown



Brown, with his sons Gordon, centre, and Andrew, and a copy of his sermons *A Time to Serve*, published for his 86th birthday in 1994

JOHN BROWN was not simply the father of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was also a significant figure in the Church of Scotland and in the local communities in which he served throughout his life. Greatly loved, he was an able preacher and a superb pastor, distinguished by his selfless concern for those committed to his care - a concern that was important in shaping the future politics of Gordon Brown.

Born in Fife in 1914, Brown went to Bell Baxter School in Cupar before going on to St Andrew's University. He was an excellent student, especially linguistically - and one of the most popular - gaining an MA in 1935, and graduating Bachelor of Divinity with first class honours in 1939. The university bestowed a doctorate of Divinity on him in 1979.

He was ordained and inducted at St Cuthbert's, Dunoon, in 1939, having first served as an assistant at St Katherine's, Newburgh, and then at St Mary's, Govan. He returned to Govan in 1943 for his second ministry, and remained there for 11 years. From 1954 to 1967 he was the minister at St Brycedale, Kirkcaldy, and served as Chaplain at Kirkcaldy High School. His last charge was St John's, Hamilton.

All his ministries were successful. He was disciplined, fond of people and had considerable charm and a lovely sense of humour. He was also a good preacher, thoroughly prepared. I never met a better pastor.

Brown had an ethical, sensitive side to his nature, and was politically orientated - more people like him should enter politics. He was naturally friendly and dedicated to helping people; he and his wife were an extraordinary couple. I am not surprised they produced a son like Gordon.

He married Elizabeth Souter in 1947. They had a very happy marriage and a strong family life - he had a gift for making you feel at home. His three sons have all been successful: as well as Gordon, John, the eldest, is head of public relations for Glasgow City Council and the youngest, Andrew, is a Channel 4 television producer. They are a distinguished family but, more importantly, have remained "nice".

John Brown was a stalwart of the community, continuing to preach at local churches during his long retirement. He had a saintly quality, yet remained very human at the same time. He was involved in charity work and regularly visited patients at Insh Hospital nearby. In 1994, on his 80th birthday, Brown's three sons published a collection of his sermons, *A Time To Serve*.

MURDO EWEN MACDONALD

John Ebenezer Brown, minister of the church: born Largo, Fife 26 October 1914; ordained 1939; married 1947 Elizabeth Souter (three sons); died Insh, Aberdeenshire 7 December 1998.

Professor Eric Axelson

ANTONIO DE Figueiredo's obituary of Professor Eric Axelson (7 November) is a necessary tribute to a most able and distinguished scholar, writes Professor H. V. Livermore. It contains one inaccuracy. It was in Rhodesia that

archivists were a rarity, and Axelson's accompanist was not a member of the PIDE (Portuguese state police), as de Figueiredo states, but a sergeant from the Rhodesian crime squad selected for this more agreeable service.

Axelson was his own archaeologist. On returning from Lisbon to Natal in December 1937, he was able to locate at once from accounts the spot where a beacon or *podrão* had been erected to mark the limit of Bartolomeu Dias's voyage which dis-

covered and rounded the Cape in 1488. It had stood at False Island or Kwaii Hoek, and had been broken. Part was underground and part had fallen into the sea. Axelson and his brother retrieved the fragments and had them pieced together, and it now

forms part of the collection of the Sociedade de Geografia in Lisbon.

Incidentally, Bartolomeu Dias's statue now adorns South Africa House, and he is the only Portuguese to be so commemorated in London.

sor
range

Professor Tony Tanner

THE EARLY death at 63 of Tony Tanner has robbed King's College, Cambridge, of one of its favoured sons, the university English faculty of its most perceptive reader, and lovers of English and American literature of their best guide.

Tony Tanner was brought up in south London. His father was a civil servant and his mother had trained as a teacher. Tanner's childhood was one limited by the Second World War and the austerity that it brought in its wake. He attended Raynes Park County Grammar School and, after National Service, matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge. He was one of an extraordinary cohort of undergraduates three others of whom (Jeremy Prynne, John Rathmell and Tony Sparring) went on to hold senior positions in the English faculty. Their teachers included two great Shakespearean scholars, A.P. Rossiter and John Brockbank, both of whom were to be lasting influences on Tanner.

The degree he undertook at Cambridge was largely the product of a union of I.A. Richards's methods of practical criticism and F.R. Leavis's historical moralism. Both for very different reasons situated English literature as the central discipline for a modern university: a discipline focused on close reading of the canon - the body of English literature from Chaucer to Eliot which recorded Arnold's "best that had been thought and said".

To read English at Cambridge in the late Fifties was to have the last opportunity to read the whole canon of English literature. The texts had been agreed for 30 years, the secondary literature was still modest and while history, sociology and anthropology could make contributions to the "central discipline of the modern university", the questions posed by both theory and popular culture had yet to be articulated.

Tanner has a strong claim to be the best reader ever produced by this particular formation and this is the underlying force of all his work. But, if Tanner was a compulsive reader and writer, he was also one of the finest talkers in the world; his conversation rippled with quotations taken from the whole range of English literature woven in and out of an absolutely contemporary speech devoid of pretension or pomposity. To speak with him for an hour was to be treated, whether the topic be English football, faculty gossip or the government of the day, to a wonderful literary lesson.

As for many others growing up in the austerity of post-war Britain, America had always beckoned as the promised land and his two teenage passions of jazz and boxing suggested that all routes led across the Atlantic. After a brilliant Tripos, he won a Harkness Fellowship which took him to Berkeley, California, in 1958. Here he was to encounter another lasting influence in his teacher Henry Nash Smith. He was also to meet his first wife Marcia Albright and discover the full force of post-war American literature and culture.

He returned to Cambridge in 1960 and to a Fellowship in King's, where the great Dadie Rylands was looking for a



Professor of English and American Literature at Cambridge from 1989

successor. To the then dominant Leavisite orthodoxy, King's was Cambridge's whorl of Babylon: a haven of dubious sexuality and an enclave of metropolitan Bloomsbury. For Tanner, it was the last and most important part of his education. The Bloomsbury ideal of civilised behaviour stripped of its class hypocrisy became Tanner's settled faith.

It is difficult now to imagine a time when American literature was not taught in any English university. But to engage with American literature was

and within six weeks had sent in an application for his old job at Cambridge. The fact that the notoriously raucous Cambridge English Faculty immediately re-appointed him says much both for the sweetness and gentleness of his nature and of his pre-eminence as a critic of American literature. King's too, despite the fact that they had appointed three Fellows to replace him, also welcomed him back.

Nadia Fusini, his new Italian wife with whom he enjoyed a very happy and highly unorthodox marriage, and his young colleagues, who were bringing the good news from Paris, stimulated him to new endeavours of decidedly more

European flavour. The result was an ambitious attempt to combine close readings of Goethe, Rousseau and Flaubert with a more theoretical approach in *Adultery and the Novel* (1979). But this period came to an end when the faculty sacked a junior colleague of his at King's.

There was an exodus from the college of his English friends and colleagues. The depression that had first afflicted him in Baltimore returned in even more vicious form and his drinking, which had already seriously damaged his balance and left him unable to walk without a stick, now dominated his entire life. Even his closest friends despaired of his condition. But Nadia Fusini's refusal to accept such defeatism and a period of psychoanalysis bought a quite unexpected end to both his suicidal drinking and depression.

Tanner now embarked on what he called his "posthumous life", a time of great happiness and achievement. Happily installed in King's, appointed in 1989 to a personal professorship, active as a revered elder of the tribe in both college and faculty, he found himself returning to the Great Tradition with books on Jane Austen and Henry James (*Henry James*, 1985, and *Jane Austen*, 1986). These books were not addressed to the "research community" although they could be read with profit by them; but to students and readers who wanted to understand these classic texts.

His greatest triumphs were reserved for last. *Venice Desired* (1992) looked at that fabled city through its literary representations from Byron to Thomas Mann, from Ruskin to Proust. It might have seemed difficult to surpass this superb interweaving of literature and history but Tanner's next task was his *magnum opus* - to provide prefaces to every one of Shakespeare's plays in the new Everyman library. All of Tanner's life and education had prepared him for this task and the results are magnificent - both accessible and learned. It was a comfort to him in his final illness that what he felt to be his finest work would be collected together in a single edition.

In that illness his wit remained undiminished and his dislike of bores undimmed. After four weeks in hospital he died back in his beloved King's with his wife, Nadia, his stepdaughter Barbara and his friend Stephen Heath by his side. With Tanner's death a whole era for King's, which began before the First World War with the opening of the college to non-Etonians, comes to a close. For the English faculty his death leaves precious few with direct links back to the founding fathers.

COLIN MACCABE

Paul Antony Tanner, English scholar, born Richmond, Surrey 18 March 1935; Fellow, King's College, Cambridge 1960-98; University Lecturer, Cambridge University 1966-80, Reader in American Literature 1980-89, Professor of English and American Literature 1989-98; married first Marcia Albright (marriage dissolved), second 1979 Nadia Fusini; died Cambridge 5 December 1998.

To engage with American literature was novel, radical and daring. Throughout his career Tanner maintained the role of evangelist for his adopted literature

novel, radical and daring when Tony Tanner began his doctoral study of the Transcendentalists. So impressive was the thesis and the subsequent book *The Reign of Wonder* (1965) that Tanner was appointed to a post in the English faculty just before the book was published. Throughout his career he maintained the role of evangelist for his adopted literature - advising, examining, lecturing wherever he could help American literature on to the syllabus. Almost all those in Britain who have taken courses or degrees in American literature owe him a considerable debt.

His next book, *City of Words* (1971), moved from the 19th to the 20th century

and within six weeks had sent in an application for his old job at Cambridge. The fact that the notoriously raucous Cambridge English Faculty immediately re-appointed him says much both for the sweetness and gentleness of his nature and of his pre-eminence as a critic of American literature. King's too, despite the fact that they had appointed three Fellows to replace him, also welcomed him back.

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HISTORICAL NOTES

GERALD HOWSON

Lies and swindles in the Spanish Civil War

AFTER ALL, that has been written during the past 63 years on the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, one might suppose that everything of importance that can be said about it has been said and that every lie has been exposed, illusion shattered and old controversy finally resolved. Not quite, I'm afraid. Consider, for instance, the disagreements over why the Republicans were defeated. In Britain at this time, various politicians and historians, anxious to remove the tarnish of appeasement from the Conservative Party, were rehabilitating Chamberlain and the Gully Men of Munich as clear-headed realists who, by conciliating the dictators while sacrificing Spain, Austria and even Czechoslovakia, bought us time in which to rearm for the world war in September 1939. Spain fitted into this reasoning because, since it was now known that the Republicans had procured plenty of armaments, Non-Intervention could not have contributed to their defeat, so there was no point in waxing indignant over that either.

In a recent book, I have presented sufficient new documentary evidence to show that the figures on which this case stands are untrue, and that the effect of Non-Intervention on the Republicans was devastating and resulted in their obtaining only a small fraction of

what they needed even for a defensive, let alone an offensive war. This forced them to pay huge bribes to ministers of government, military chiefs, politicians and officials at every level in country after country in order to buy, at outrageous prices, arms that, as often as not, were never delivered or were found to be junk.

If the conduct of the Poles, Czechs, Estonians, Romanians and Turks, to mention only a few of the governments involved, at times almost defies belief, it is the Soviets who, far from giving whole-hearted support to the Spanish Republic as they and their apologists have always claimed, turn out to have been the biggest swindlers and thieves of the lot. Obviously, therefore, since this is a matter not of detail but of establishing fundamental historical justice, much that has been written about the Spanish Civil War will simply have to be rewritten.

The Russians could make a helpful start by opening all their Spanish Civil War archives, before someone tries to destroy them, or, as happened several times only a few years ago, offer them for sale on the black market.

Gerald Howson is the author of *Arms for Spain: the untold story of the Spanish Civil War* (John Murray, £25).

Police officers were not entitled to damages

POLICE OFFICERS who suffered psychiatric injury as a result of assisting the victims of a disaster caused by negligence for which the Chief Constable was vicariously liable were not entitled to damages either because their employment relationship gave rise to duties which were not owed to strangers, nor as rescuers.

The House of Lords (Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff dissenting) allowed the appeal of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire against the decision of the Court of Appeal that the plaintiffs were entitled to damages in negligence for psychiatric injury suffered as a result of the Hillsborough disaster.

The plaintiffs were serving members of the South Yorkshire police force on duty at the Hillsborough football stadium or elsewhere on the day that 95 people were crushed to death on the terraces, and many more were injured, as a result of the pressure of the crowds trying to get into the ground.

Two of the plaintiffs had helped to carry the dead and dying; two had tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate those who had been laid out on the ground; another had assisted at the hospital mortuary. As a result of their experiences, they had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder, which had affected their ability to work and their private lives.

Andrew Colclander QC and Patrick Limb (Hammond Suddards, Leeds) for the Chief Constable; Benet Hytner QC and Graham Platts (Russell Jones & Walker, Sheffield) for the plaintiffs.

Lord Hoffmann said that the plaintiffs claimed that the

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

9 DECEMBER 1998

Frost v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and others
House of Lords (Lord Broune-Wilkinson, Lord Griffiths, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann)
3 December 1998

police were in a position analogous to employees of the Chief Constable, and that the employment relationship gave rise to duties which were not owed to strangers.

The liability of an employer to his employees for negligence was not a separate tort with its own rules. It was an aspect of the general law of negligence. It would not be fair in principle to give police officers the right to a larger claim than others merely because the disaster was caused by the negligence of other policemen.

The plaintiffs also claimed that they were not bystanders or spectators, but participants in the sense that they had actually done things to help, and that there was an analogy between their position and that of a rescuer who, on the basis of the decision in *Chadwick v British Railways Board* (1967) 1 WLR 912, was said to be treated as a primary victim.

The cases on rescuers, however, were quite simply illustrations of the application of

general principles of foreseeability and causation to particular facts.

There was no logical reason why the normal treatment of rescuers on the issues of foreseeability and causation should lead to the conclusion that, for the purposes of psychiatric injury, they should be given special treatment as primary victims when they were not within the range of foreseeable physical injury, and their psychiatric injury was caused by witnessing or participating in the aftermath of accidents which caused death or injury to others.

Liability for psychiatric injury to rescuers who gave assistance at or after some disaster without coming within the range of foreseeable physical injury should not be extended. Once the concept of a rescuer as someone who put himself in physical danger was extended to include others who gave assistance, the line between them and bystanders became difficult to draw with any precision.

Furthermore, such an extension of liability would be unacceptable to the ordinary person because he would think it unfair between one class of claimants and another: at best, not treating like cases alike, and at worst, favouring the less deserving against the more deserving. He would think it wrong that policemen, even as part of a general class of persons who had rendered assistance, should have the right to compensation for psychiatric injury out of public funds while the bereaved relatives were sent away with nothing.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

TANNER: Professor Paul Antony ("Tony"), peacefully in his rooms in King's College, Cambridge, on Saturday 5 December. Deeply loved and greatly esteemed brother, uncle, husband, Fellow, and friend. Funeral, King's College Chapel, 11.30pm, Friday 11 December. Flowers and/or donations. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Services, 24 James Street, Cambridge CB1 1HX. Donations to "Hospital at Home" (Arthur Rank House, Brooklands Avenue, 351 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3DP).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding Anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 48; Sir Nicholas Benson, former MP, 56; Mr Beau Bridges, actor, 57; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano, 40; Sir John Burgh, former President, Trinity College, Oxford, 73; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 64; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 82; Mr Douglas Fairbanks Jr, actor, 89; Miss Dawn Freedman, circuit judge, 56; Mr Geoffrey Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell, 72; Mr Robert Hawke, former prime minister of Australia, 69; Professor Gabriel Horn, Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 71; Mr Simon Kellner, Editor, *The Independent*, 41; Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 72; Mr Ian McIntyre, writer and broadcaster, 67; Mr John Malkovich, actor, 45; Mr Donny Osmond, singer, 41; Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Milton, poet, 1608; Baldassare Ferri, castrato, 1610; Edward, first Baron Thurlow, Lord Chancellor, 1731; Prince Peter Alexeyevich Kropotkin, Russian revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Joel Chandler Harris, writer, and creator of "Uncle Remus", 1848; Clarence Birdseye, inventor of the deep-freezing process, 1886; Hermione Ferdinand Gilling, actress and entertainer, 1898; Richard Austen

LECTURES

National Gallery: David Jaffé, "Pictures from Christ Church (ii): Van Dyck, *The Continence of Scipio*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Seagrigh, "Merchants and Collectors in the Nehru Gallery (i)", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Aesthetic Debates in 1930s England", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "The Nativity and Religious Drawings: Mantegna to Rubens", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christine Phillips, "Rococo Art in Galleries Four", 1pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Gerald Wakefield, "The Internet: copyright and intellectual property", 5.30pm. Kufu Gallery, London W2: Ibrahim Mohammed, "The History of Damascus", 7.15pm.

Today is the Feast Day of St Budoc or Beuzec, St Goronia, St Leocadia, St Peter Fourier and The Seven Martyrs of Samosata.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, presents the Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace; as Patron and Trustee, attends receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; as Admiral, attends the Honourable

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS' LUNCH

Company of Master Mariners' Lunch on board HMS Wellington to celebrate its 50th anniversary of being berthed at Temple Stairs, London WC2; and, as Senior Colonel, attends the Household Division Massed Bands Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1. The Prince of Wales opens St Thomas's Hospital Cardiac Wing, London SE1; attends the Ulysses Trust Reception at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London SW3; and,

as President, attends a Prince's Trust Conference at Lewisham College, London SE4. The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attends the National Olympic Committee Meeting at the Town Hall, Sheffield; opens Sheffield University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, St George's Hospital, Sheffield; opens Joint Replacement Instrumentation (Ceramics) Ltd, Leigh Street, Sheffield; and, as President of Patrons,

Crime Concern, attends a reception to launch the Crime Concern Membership Scheme at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Gloucester, President, St Bartholomew's Hospital, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, attends a concert in the Great Hall to mark the 875th anniversary of the foundation of the Priory and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief,

visits the 1st Battalion Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain; and, as Patron, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, attends a concert and dinner at the Banqueting House, London SW1.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

joanna, n.

Green provides the more cogent summary (OUP gives space to a random, 1972 citation), and also includes the American term

joanin' - an exchange of insults, not rhyming slang for moanin'; the etymology is uncertain but there is a dialect phrase, Joan Blunt. Naturally, one soon strays further (I need a knuller). It is a marvel the Sussex Stationers chain is doing it at half-price (£12.50), a snip - the duty-free on a day-trip to Brighton.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Mick Hucknall, is your music just easy-listening for yuppies? And what's your favourite chat-up line?)



Mick Hucknall was born in Denton, Manchester in 1960. He recorded his first hit, "Holding Back the Years", with his punk-inspired group, Frantic Elevators. They split up in 1983 and he went on to form Simply Red, whose best-selling singles have included "Money's Too Tight to Mention", "Fairground" and "If You Don't Know Me by Now". He has sold 40 million albums worldwide and his album *Blue* is double platinum.

Has Tony's government lived up to all your expectations?
Guy Saunders, Lewisham, London
Not all of them... probably no one could in such a short time. But the truth is just William and Paddy are not the superior options. Tony Blair is one of the century's great leaders, and Bald Billy is a prat.

How do you respond to critics who say your music is easy-listening for yuppies?
Darren Long, Epping - PS. I'm a great fan and I'm not a yuppie! I don't.

What do women find attractive about you? And what's your favourite chat-up line?
Lena Taylor, Dublin
Ha! It mystifies me but everyone is attracted to at least someone. My chat-up line? I don't have a list of questions. It just depends on the moment.

Why have you never got married and would you like to have children?
Gillian Mann, Epsom
I'm only now becoming mature enough to desire it, and yes, I am now ready to make some babies.

If you could date an All Saint, which one would it be?
Pete Lennon, Bayswater, London
They have a very cute assistant... very cute.

How did you become friends with Robert De Niro?
Emily Downs, East Dulwich
We met in Milano several years ago and then again in New York. Along with Jack [Nicholson] and Sean Penn and Mr Brando, he is "de bollocks of de dog".

Was it a culture shock living in Hulme, Manchester and then jetting around the world? How do you deal with the contrasts of where you grew up and how you live now?
Lesley Meade, Stockport
Totally. It took me years to learn to deal with the realities of fame and

success. It's hard work sometimes but clearly the pluses outweigh the negatives.

In what way could you describe yourself as a typical only child?
Anna Hopkins, Hunsington
I couldn't because I'm an only child from a single-parent family. Double trouble!

In one interview, you said you felt like an outsider because your mother left you at an early age and you were seen as "the odd kid with red hair". Have you reconciled either of these two things?
Julia Ramsay, Chelmsford
No, actually I haven't and whenever I read some horrible comment about me or my hair, for example, I realise I never will.

Do you think white people really can sing soul?
Will Oaking, Camden, London
Do you think black people really can

Jan Blake, Newcastle
Spaghetti al pomodoro e basilico. Predictable but eternally classic.

I used to see you DJing at Manchester Poly - would you like to try your hand at it again?
Paul Ellis, Whalley Range, Manchester
I still do from time to time. I have great memories of my time at Manchester Poly. I still enjoy DJing from time to time.

How many houses do you own and where are they?
Robert May, Chelmsford
I have a house just outside London and an apartment in Milano.

What do you think is the worst aspect of working in the music business?
Mark Chisholm, Shepherd's Bush, London
Feeling like a supermarket item. Seeing new fads becoming special

Would you rather be Marvin Gaye, Al Green or Aretha Franklin?
Nick Johnston, Luton
I am their illegitimate *ménage à trois* son!

You claim to be a Mancunian so how can you justify supporting Man United?
Brendan Smyth, Wythenshawe, Manchester
Ha Ha! How can you claim to be a Mancunian from Wirry? Man City are now a registered charity. It's a crying shame... I miss the Derbies.

Your label Blood and Fire is such a success - why do you think people are still interested in reggae from the late Seventies?
Jessica Webb, Truro, Cornwall
It truly was the golden era for Jamaican music, a bit like their Swinging Sixties if you like - except they were digging the Old Testament. Marcus Garvey and Ralle Selassie.

What's your favourite reggae album?
Rob Turner, Redditch
One of these four: *Social Living*, *Burning Spear*, *Two Sevens Clash*, *Culture*, *Under Heavy Manners*, *Prince Far I*, *Heart of the Congos*, *The Congos*.

Do you ever regret having a ruby put in your tooth?
Daisy O'Sullivan, Banbury
No I love it, I'm very happy with it.

Jarvis Cocker famously shunned New Labour's courtship - how come you didn't?
James Lee, Islington, London
Because I don't need to butt-lick the trendy pseudo-hip, self-absorbed elements of the popular music and fashion press.

How do you think you will celebrate the Millennium?
Chris Walsh, Tenby
With my dearest friends.

I've got an original copy of your single "Holding Back the Years" by Frantic Elevators. Is it worth anything?
Francis Ross, Derby
A few hundred quid, apparently.

Who would you like to find in your Christmas stocking this Christmas morning?
Carol Macleod, West Lothian, Scotland
My future wife!

'Live at the Lyceum', a compilation of Simply Red's recent live concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, 12 December at 11.55pm

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: PENELOPE LEACH, FOLLOWED BY RICHARD DAWKINS, EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST

Send questions for the child psychologist Penelope Leach, or Richard Dawkins, to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL (fax 0171-298 2182; e-mail yourquestions@independent.co.uk by noon on Friday, 11 December



appreciate classical music? Offensive, isn't it? Well, I'm offended too. This century has been unique in the story of mankind in that we have witnessed the marriage of cultures, mainly Western and African. I am one of this century's children. Musical recording history is full of multi-racial collaborations and it is this cross-pollination that has created the magic of Ellington, Sinatra and the Beatles. I am merely a part of that tradition. It is perhaps the most "souful" strength of living in a multiracial society. Please, for the sake of the next century, let's rid ourselves of these racist shackles, and move positively forward.

Do you harbour any desires to act?
Jane Thurlow, Woodwaltham
I'd like to try at least once, because I'm an addictive mimic and I'm always impersonating people, but I have friends who are very great actors... that makes me think twice.

I've heard you're keen on Italian food - what's your favourite Italian meal?

offers... oh well, I guess it's the nature of the beast.

Who would you most like to duet with?
Jay Brand, Horsham
Duets are not easy. The soul singer Gladys Knight would be nice.

What are the last three records you bought?
Roddy Maine, Edinburgh
Beach Boys box set, Lauryn Hill and Stardust - "Music Sounds Better With You".

Who or what has given you the greatest pleasure over the last three months?
Christina Burrell, Sussex
Seeing my closest friends achieve their goals in life. Writing some of the best songs of my career - this is pleasure.

Who would you most like to have dinner with tonight? And where would you most like to go?
Laura McEwen, St Neots
Hillary Clinton. The Oval Office.

Great! Another pair of socks...

Giving Christmas presents can be stressful. But receiving them is even worse. By Hester Lacey

DON'T CHRISTMAS presents look beautiful as they glitter under the tree, all wrapped in shiny paper and decorated with ribbons and tinsel? And sadly, that elegant packaging may be the most alluring thing about the gift itself. How often those enticing boxes turn out to contain a piece of useless and completely inappropriate old rubbish: for this is the season when novelty kitchen accoutrements, embossed-leather manicure sets, fluffy-animal slippers and boxes of sculpted nuggets of marzipan start to suddenly appear, cunningly disguised in smart wrappings and seasonal bows.

Last week, we heard how Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, had surveyed Brent Cross Shopping Centre and found that trudging round the shops can raise stress levels equal to those experienced by fighter pilots. Now William Doherty, professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota, is going as far as to say that it's the actual giving of gifts which is the most nerve-wracking part of the entire season. The British spend an average of £42 per gift, more than the French or the Americans. And yet despite all the effort, agonising and spending, it's still so easy to get it wrong.

Take, for example, Maria, who hinted for weeks about a beautiful, soft, grey cashmere sweater that she had fallen in



A present says what you think of a person - get it right

love with. Under the tree, a package duly appeared of the right size, shape and squishiness. On Christmas morning, as she tore away the paper, she could barely keep her countenance: inside were a dozen tea towels. This story gets worse. The giver was her husband.

Or Sara, who has amassed a near-professional collection of cake tins, pie dishes, pizza cutters and expensive Le Creuset enamelware of all shapes and sizes from her parents-in-law. This year, she says grimly, she is expecting the famous Della-endorsed omelette pan. "But

it's no good. All the kitchen stuff in the world isn't going to turn me into her. It's simply a case of can't cook, won't cook. There's no malice involved on their part, but they just can't imagine a young woman who isn't a whizz in the kitchen and the more they pile me up with non-stick bakeware, the less I feel like cooking anything at all."

Esther still remembers her disappointment when, aged about 10, she asked her grandmother for a copy of *The Hobbit*. "My grandma was in one of those book clubs that produces identically-bound copies of various classics. She mistook which book I was pointing to and I unwrapped a copy of *The Complete Poems of Byron, Shelley and Keats*, lovingly inscribed with my name and a message so it couldn't go back. No dragons, no dwarves, no hobbits. I still have the damn book on my shelf, and I've never read it."

Being landed with unwanted tea towels, omelette pans and books of classical poetry doesn't simply mean the aggravation of having to take them back (or having to dump them on the doorstep of the local charity shop). Research into the psychology of giving suggests that inappropriate gifts can sometimes betray what is a hopelessly dysfunctional relationship.

"It's awful when you get a

present you don't like," says Dr Carol Burgoyne, a lecturer in psychology at Exeter University. "This isn't just a response to a commodity you don't like, because a gift is more than that - you are giving a part of yourself to the other person."

It is worse, she says, if the person handing out the festive tat is close to you. "If it is someone who should know you and your tastes quite intimately, that can leave a very negative feeling. It suggests that they haven't taken care over their choice, or that they are misguided about what kind of person you are."

And, she further warns, there is a complex gift-ranking system to complicate matters further: Partners or parents and children expect, not to put too fine a point on it, a better present than those given to more distant recipients, which probably means one that cost more. "To some, the cost of the gift can be a signal of how much the giver cares," warns Dr Burgoyne.

Sadly, most people will be receiving a few duds this year (and, indeed, giving them). For those who can't face the returns queue, a recent American Express survey found that 28 per cent of cardholders had found a practical and thrifty way of resolving the problem: simply rewrapping the white elephant and giving it away to someone else.

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

20: STRANGERS WHO WANT TO TALK BY ANN TRENEMAN

I'M NOT big on prayer but I make an exception when it comes to public transport. I am not asking for a safe journey: even God cannot control molecules of frost on the rail line or airline runway fatigue. No, I am praying that no one talks to me. Now you may wonder if I am so vain as to think that a complete stranger would want to talk to me. But vanity has nothing to do with it. Some people will talk to anyone and, in my case, it is never just a chat. They want to tell me everything.

Prayer being unreliable, I have developed back-up behaviours aimed at inducing silence in anyone bar psychotic or religious fanatics. No eye contact is allowed. So when you get to your seat, under no circumstances should you even glance at the person beside you. If they say "Hello", mumble and start to read. Anything will do, though aeroplane vomit-bag instructions can get a bit tedious.

It is crucial that you do not react to anything your neighbour does. If they ask for a bit of your newspaper, hand it over without eye contact. If they talk on the phone, ignore it. If they sing, stare out of the window. I am so religious about this rule that once, on the last train home, I realised that everyone else had left the carriage except for me and my



No chat please, we're British Garry Dook

neighbour who, it transpired, had thrown up. Still, at least we didn't have to chat about it first.

Some people are more persistent than others. Women in headscarves are prone to chat. Ditto people travelling in a group - choir members, football fans, hen-night types. Sometimes you simply have to move. In the case of genuine psychotics, though, moving doesn't work: they follow you. The last one that sat beside me babbled the whole way, head jerking this way and that, with occasional attempts to set me and himself on fire. Eye contact was the least of my problems.

All this comes to mind because the other day I

broke my own rule and paid the price. I was sprinting down a platform when I realised I didn't know where the train was going. I then made a fatal error. I initiated contact by shouting. "Where is this train going?" at a man running in front of me. "London," he shouted back. That is all it took.

On board, we should have become strangers again. But no. He wanted to talk. He told me about train times, the platform, his connecting train before going into his personal train history. He popped his briefcase, got the timetable out and started to read it to me. Then he decided I needed his help to buy a ticket. "You can buy one from the conductor," he said. He repeated this; then I made my second error: I replied. I said I thought I would wait for a bit. He grimaced. He disagreed. I demurred. The train started to move. "You can go and see the conductor now!" he said.

It was time to get serious. I opened my paper and began to practise my ritual avoidance technique. Soon, I noticed that the man had started to read the timetable to another man sitting across the aisle. Both seemed pleased, and were soon chatting away about timetables they had known and loved. Isn't it great when they find each other?

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Count Alexander von Berghshasy
He is wearing The Count Alexander Diamond (a 713-carat cubic zirconia, set in white gold with platinum plating - the largest zirconia in the world, he says). 'I want to bring out the peacock in every gentleman,' he says.



Pandora Gorey - the Count's lady in waiting
Her jewels are from a new *parure* of fantasy jewels, made to Pandora's own design. 'The idea is based on spiders crawling around on dew-drenched grass in the morning mist. I love it, I feel as if I am walking on air.'



Karen Wright - theatrical costumier
Her jewels are from the Katherine The Great *parure*. She is wearing her own dress, which took a week to make. 'I feel like Katherine the Great. This is my first year at this occasion although I have attended other soirées at Count Alexander's,' she says.



Sandy - one of the Count's dearest friends
The earrings are part of a collection from Empress Josephine. The necklace is from the Countess of Paris collection. 'You feel so good walking down the stairway and through the Ritz into the Marie Antoinette suite. It is true, I do feel like a princess.'



Olivia Barnard-Firth - costume designer
Olivia is wearing the replica in jewels and clothing reputed to have been bought for Marie Antoinette just before she was beheaded. Consequently she never actually wore the crown. 'Beauty brings such joy and happiness into lives, everyone should try to be beautiful every day. I live in the country and own horses, ducks and chickens. Even when I muck out the chickens I am glamorous,' she says. Photographs: Suzy del Campo / Interviews: Amy Jones



Baroness Ilse von Berghshasy - the Count's mother
Her jewels are from the Ice Queen collection and consist of 214-carat zirconias and baroque pearls. The tiara is a copy of the Tsarina of Russia's made by Cartier in 1910. 'I feel so proud of my son, he just wants to share the beauty of the jewels,' she says.



Ursula Adam - historical dancer
The jewels are a replica of a *parure* in pink topaz and diamond that was worn by Katherine The Great. 'Tonight I feel like an aristocrat. I am 18th century. We all like a little fantasy and this is the perfect occasion to indulge,' she says.

The Count of many crystals

On St Nicholas's Day, Count Alexander von Berghshasy invited his friends to wear his jewels at the Ritz. By John Windsor

Count Alexander von Berghshasy was wearing a replica of the Hope diamond, a full-length, three-tiered cape, a silk velvet ruffled shirt, a pair of black riding breeches, black hussar boots with spurs - and two rings on each hand.

'I always wear my jewels,' he said. So will we all, if he realises his dream. Women will don diamond tiaras, dazzling bodice-smothering necklaces, stomachers, bracelets, brooches and chandelier earrings dripping with diamonds.

Replica diamonds, that is. The count makes and sells the world's biggest replica rocks including, most recently, the crown jewels of France, Austria and Russia, which he has been privileged to hold in his cotton-gloved hands. He did not dare to touch the Hope diamond in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington - because of its deadly reputation. He studied it from a distance of a few inches.

His shop, just opened, is a tiny cubicle, like a jewel box, in The Mall, the antique arcade in Islington, north London. It glitters with a 4ft-wide Austrian Maria Theresa crystal chandelier with 25 candle bulbs, surplus from Buckingham Palace, dangling Rococo angels, and a life-size gold angel holding a crown, suspended from a gold rose garland entwined with fairy lights.

He has made 16 life-size, lifelike glass fibre mannequins, including Marie Antoinette's lady-in-waiting, with a galleon hairstyle, which is in his shop. He calls them his 'perfect people'. In his window is a mannequin of Faye Dunaway, star of Michael Winner's film, *The Wicked Lady*, wearing a ruby-studded velvet gown by the *haute couture* period dressmaker Olivia Barnard-Firth - who makes the count's own outfits - and his ruby-and-diamond winter jewel collection. A sign above the mannequin says: 'A wicked lady always gets what she wants for Christmas.'

The Count surrounds himself with wicked ladies - well, playfully wicked ones at least - notably at the Ritz, where they gather at his dinner parties resplendent in long gowns and the complete *parures* he has made for them. The last such extravaganza celebrated St Nicholas's

Day, on Sunday. 'I want to bring some sparkle, glamour, opulence, decadence, to this dull city of ours,' he says. 'I'm not from this century, I'm from the 18th century, and this is my mission in this life. It's just not true that you can have too much of a good thing. My aim is to gild the lily.'

'Just as Diana, Princess of Wales wanted to be Queen of Hearts, I want to be Queen of Diamonds. I want to make dreams come true.'

His great-grandmother was a Hohenzollern: his grandmother designed costumes for the opera in Linz, Austria; and his mother, the Baroness von Berghshasy, guided him as a child through the splendours of the palaces and castles of central Europe.

'I want to be Queen of Diamonds, I want to make dreams come true'

'For as long as I can remember,' he says, 'I have been attracted to anything that glitters and sparkles.'

The family title was a reward for being the only Austro-Hungarian family, apart from Count Dracula's, to take up arms against the Turks in the 15th century. The count wears his family's gold signet ring, dating back to 1700, which is engraved with a horseman raising a sword upon which a Turk's head is impaled, while the horse tramples the decapitated foe.

A word of warning: never say 'jewellery' within his earshot. 'Such a cheap and common word,' he says. 'You would never hear the Queen referring to the Crown Jewels as jewellery. They are jewels.'

Even replica jewels have their pride, it seems, and even royalty has been proud to wear replica jewellery. Marie Antoinette, for instance, sometimes wore necklaces made from the finest cut crystal and backed with gold foil. Nobody could tell the difference - especially below those blazing, 100-candle chandeliers in the state rooms of the Palace of Versailles.

Count Alexander uses crystal of the same highest quality - Austrian mountain crystal that is ground to a paste, laced with lead then machine-cut, and hand-cut Russian zirconia - a diamond-like rock crystal that can be distinguished from the real thing only under laser light. The count backs the stones with 24-carat antique gold - he eschews modern gold because it apparently has a 'vulgar glitter'.

His *tour de force* is Marie Antoinette's necklace, made from 500 rose-cut Austrian crystals and comprising two pieces - a collar tied with a satin ribbon, and broad, sumptuous swags with tassels, suspended from the shoulders. He discovered an accurate design for it in a Paris flea-market. His replica was worn for the first time at the Ritz. (See main picture, above.)

The count's private clients include ageing members of the nobility who arrive at his shop carrying plastic supermarket bags, from which they gingerly extract 19th-century jewel boxes containing tiaras last worn at their weddings or the Queen's coronation. They have had to pay extra insurance in order to take them out of their bank vaults for a day, so that the count can measure them to make a replica.

'Jewels are meant to be worn,' he says. 'But what's the point of buying a tiara from Cartier if you are constantly afraid of being mugged or even killed for it?'

Always tell people that your jewels are not real, he advises - it's safer that way - and take care of them. Their natural enemies are perfume and hairspray, which cling like a yellow glue to the stones, attracting grime and causing them to disintegrate. Even real diamonds hate sticky cosmetic sprays. His advice: spray on the perfume, wait 10 minutes - then put on the jewels and step out into the bright lights.

Prices: from £50 for a pair of Austrian crystal stud earrings, to £1,350 for an Austrian crystal tiara or £5,000 for a Russian zirconia necklace. Each jewel is signed and is in a limited edition of 100. They come in splendid boxes.

Count Alexander Berghshasy, 14 The Mall Antique Arcade, 359 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (0171-354 0059). The nearest underground station is Angel.



Prince John Hepburn - an old friend of the Count's
The large brooch is a replica of the order of the garter. The smaller ruby brooch is a replica of the order of St John from Austria. The final piece is a replica from Katherine the Great. 'To be able to wear and see these jewels is a magnificent honour,' he says.

YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER 1998

The winner is...



CONGRATULATIONS TO photography student Amanda Cannon, the winner of *The Independent* and Clothes Show Live's Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year award. The brief was to capture 'the heart of fashion' at the British Heart Foundation fashion show. Amanda wins an Olympus OM 2000 camera plus kit, and work experience with *The Independent's* catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. Two runners-up, Anna Thompson and Calin Renton, both receive an Olympus IS-10 camera plus kit.



The future of French music, Doc Gyneco, above. Below, former football club owner, politician, ex-con and now singer, Bernard Tapie

M Barrat

The new Serge Gainsbourg

He's rude, cool, sardonic. He's huge in France, dodgy mates notwithstanding. By Philip Sweeney

The most striking poster in the Paris Metro last week was a very noir photographic study of a leather-headed executioner holding up a severed pig's head beside a tall guillotine. Three thousand of these charmers are currently vying with Kylie Minogue en deshabille for the attention of commuters as Virgin Records France launches the latest album by Doc Gyneco, a 24-year-old "anti-rappeur" who may just represent the future of French pop music as we know it.

Since Doc Gyneco's debut record appeared two years ago (it's since sold 800,000 copies), increasing critical respect has been paid to his sardonic and catchy performances. The phrase "a new Serge Gainsbourg" is gaining currency. And with justification, as Doc Gyneco shares many characteristics with the late roué and pop maestro. Above all, a talent for self-publicity. A single from the album, "C'est Beau La Vie", has been in the French Top 10 for the past month, and Gyneco and its co-author – the single is a duet – have spent half the autumn splashed across front pages, from *Le Nouvel Observateur* to *Bravo Girl*.

The second voice on "C'est Beau La Vie" is that of Bernard Tapie, former multi-millionaire businessman owner of Marseilles football club and cabinet minister, recently jailed for corruption, released and bankrupted. Reduced to a solitary Left Bank town house and his last BMW, Tapie has been recycling himself as an actor, in Claude Lelouch's *Hommes, Femmes, Mode d'Emploi*, and now as a singer. His outing with Doc Gyneco has roughly the effect of a Robert Maxwell, say, teaming up with Goldie, as the odd couple swap musical badinage on the ironies of life, wherein all important matters – football, rap, politics – are controlled, *toutjours*, by gangsters.

Making contact with Bruno Beausir, as Doc Gyneco was christened, is not easy, involving many calls to despairing Virgin Records press officers and talk of possible rendezvous at suburban football matches. When I arrived at Virgin's 17th-century HQ in the Place des Vosges, Gyneco turned out to have just left for a holiday in Brazil. Instead, I talked to Virgin's artistic director, Thierry Planelle, a former programmer with Radio Nova, the Paris youth station that introduced rap and hip hop to France in the mid-Eighties.



"Bruno gave me a demo cassette, and he told me his phone number was in one of the lyrics," said Planelle. "I was immediately struck by the quality of the texts, the musicality, the fact that his subject matter was totally different from the usual French rapper stuff. The phone line turned out to have been disconnected, though."

Gyneco's home territory is the poor, outer edge of the 18th arrondissement near the Fort de la Chapelle, an area where "the pigeons die in the gutter from eating addicts' vomit", to quote the Doc's eulogy. Here, in a flat on the 23rd floor of a council block, Bruno Beausir was brought up by a Guadeloupean social

worker mother and a semi-absentee father. Bertrand, the barman in the café Le Celtic, remembers Beausir as a shy, well-behaved little boy going to the local school. Now, he observes, he drives a Mercedes 300 and has bought Johnny Halliday's old country house.

A 15-minute train ride further north lies the rough *banlieue* of Sarcelles, synonymous with the outer city decay and battles between police and disaffected multi-racial youth chronicled in the 1995 rap film, *La Haine*. In a brand-new office block beside the police station, complete with bank-style security door, is based Secteur A, the most successful of the new hip hop production houses that have made French rap the most commercially successful outside the US. Secteur A made its name with some of the hardest of the new rap acts, notably Ministère AMER, whose anti-police lyrics on the album *95200* (the Sarcelles postcode) resulted in a prosecution for criminal incitement. Doc Gyneco was, and still is, a member of this collective, but his work takes a different and refreshing direction, looking as much to French popular song as America for models.

"Je me moque du hip hop, je me

joue de la Nation Zoulou," he sings, as usual, semi-provocatively. "Cassez moi dans la carotte" (I couldn't care less about hip-hop or the Zulu Nation... Class me under "pop").

Thus, Doc Gyneco sings of his *quartier*, his social scene and his love of sex. Unjustly attacked for misogyny, he is in fact capable of encapsulating complex poetic emotion in the crude language of a ghetto love song such as "Ma Salope à Moi" – "My Slut".

A clever, punning lyricist, he also has a Gainsbourgian ear for a borrowed melody, and a love of slang, above all the back-to-front *verlan* of the *banlieues*. Doc Gyneco's popular success is such that words like *meuf* (for *femme*, woman) are becoming common in middle-class French discourse, and the rappers are having to come up with more obscure new terms. Indeed, rap has become so pervasive that Catherine Deneuve, Dior-clad icon of the arts aristocracy, is rumoured to be preparing a rap duet for a forthcoming film. As for Bruno Beausir, whose new album was launched as one of the events of the year – he can go off to Brazil with enough in the bank from the first one to keep him in "kebab sandwiches for three generations".

Trust me, this is a great book

...or not. It depends on who your friends are, argues Michael Glover

FOUR WISE men will shortly be gathering in an upper room close to Charing Cross Station to discuss a subject dear to the hearts of many reckless book purchasers at this time of year: with a view to hosting a Royal Arts Society debate next month. Their subject? The state of book reviewing, and whether we are wise to heed the words of those near-impeccable rogues whose names return again and again to our books pages.

Anthony Burgess, a great filler of books pages himself, had very strong opinions on the matter when I spoke to him shortly before his death. "They're such cheats!" he said. "I asked him how he did it. He was frank with me. I read the book and then I write about it, immediately, he told me. No time for rumination, or note taking, or staring meaningfully into the middle distance – or any of that old rubbish. He just wrote it, as quickly as possible, before he forgot what was in the book. And before he had to get on to the next review – which, such were the demands made upon his time by literary editors, would probably be a bit later that same afternoon."

One of the people who will be in that upstairs room near Charing Cross will be Tony Curtis, a former books editor of the *Financial Times*. Curtis once made the whole thing sound terribly easy: "the world of a review is to mediate between the book and the reader." The truth of the matter is that the commissioning, editing, writing and polishing of book reviews is one of the most treacherously difficult jobs around, a potential ethical minefield.

Consider this test case: if you were an untested books editor, who would you consider approaching to review a major political biography? An academic? Another political biographer? A novelist or poet who also happens to write reviews as a way of supplementing a meagre income? The academic, though knowledgeable, may write in the area himself and have scores to settle. He may also be incapable of writing journalism. The political biographer may be too narrow a specialist. He may also turn up his nose at the magnificent



Anthony Burgess

cheque. The novelist may be too much of a generalist.

Virginia Woolf, who wrote regularly for *The Manchester Guardian* early this century, complained that the literary editor expected instant knowledge from her: "You will be surprised to learn," she once wrote to a friend, "that I am an authority on Spain – but there it is." The paper had just sent her some books on the subject. Woolf felt uneasy about writing on a topic about which she had limited knowledge; but the Bloomsbury group in general had no compunction about the more blatant cheating involved in praising each other's books to the skies in print.

Some of the worst kind of cheating is in poetry reviewing, in which most people are somebody's friend, and the book under review may have been written by next year's TS Eliot Prize judge. Most poetry reviewing is craven, muted, and full of covertly sycophantic weaselly – the sort of thing Will Self alluded to in his Booker Prize outburst about the "reputation of niceness". Because reputation is all, and money nothing, poets are too often willing to hit out without nervous glances over the shoulder.

Once upon a time, it was a tragic thing to be flayed in public. Now, amongst many poets, it's just a symptom of too much over-vigorous back-scratching. The truth is that an awful lot of crap is written and published in the name of poetry, and some of it, alas, may have been written by our best friends.

Burgess the reviewer, however, used language as a battering ram, not as a self-protective barricade.

I have heard the future

THERE WERE two Elgar symphonies – now there are three. Such has been the impact of Anthony Payne's masterly elaboration of the sketches for the third in the few short months since it was premiered. That Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra chose to begin their current Elgar series with it gives you some measure of the esteem in which it is already held. It has been accepted. Not, I hasten to add, as Elgar's Third Symphony but, rather, as prophecy, as conjecture, but with heart and soul as well as scholarship. It's the nearest thing we have to closure for Elgar's symphonies. And it's not a happy ending. His loss of faith is echoed and re-echoed in the bell-like tolling of the tam-tam. Time marches on, conflict passes, taking with it "half the seed of Europe" in the dying

CLASSICAL
LSO/COLIN DAVIS
ELGAR SERIES
BARBICAN
LONDON

moments of the symphony. Payne's daring allusion to "The Wagon Passes" from Elgar's roughly contemporary *Nursery Suite* is a grim, startling metaphor for lost innocence. And all the more startling for the chivalric swagger that Sir Colin brought to the main body of the outer movements. It has to be said that the sheer heft of the London Symphony over that of the BBC Symphony, who originated the piece, threw the sonority of those outer movements into far more dramatic relief. This was altogether riper and bigger-bodied Elgar than the Davis – and the BBC or-

chestra had revealed to us. Sir Colin positively rode the sound into futures unknown. For the finale, Payne found a cathartic climax where Andrew Davis found only a crisis.

So a performing tradition is now in place for the "new" symphony with disparities in interpretation already broadening our perception of the music, just as it has done for the Violin and Cello Concertos over the years. As if to endorse that view, while simultaneously celebrating the "internationalism" of Elgar's music, Davis and LSO brought on board a Japanese violinist and Austrian cellist. Kyoto Takesawa played the Violin Concerto with plenty of objective fire. But the score discursive, the more dramatic relief. This was altogether riper and bigger-bodied Elgar than the Davis – and the BBC or-

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EDWARD SECKERSON

Miles ahead, years later

JAZZ
PORGY AND BESS
BARBICAN
LONDON

lean and unsentimental or warmly seductive, provided a matchless setting.

For many years, however, this was destined to be music with no life outside the recording studio. Only on a handful of occasions were Davis and Evans provided with sufficient funds to perform their collaborations in concert. By the time the value of their music became clear even to the most dim-witted promoter, both men had moved on, so the initiative shown by Scott Stroman and the jazz orchestra of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in searching out Evans' elusive manuscripts and preparing them for concert

performances results in many kinds of stirred emotion. If it is asking a great deal of student musicians to live up to such a legacy, then their pleasure in the privilege of inhabiting the structures of this music was easy to appreciate. But can its spirit be inhabited by any group of musicians not under the direct control of Gil Evans? This is the sort of question confronting all those who wish to make a living repertoire out of the music of the great jazz composers of the past.

So faithfully and sensitively did the orchestra perform the suite, all the way from the fevered fanfare of "Buzzard Song" to the jaunty farewell of "There's a Boat That's Leaving Soon For New York", that the highest possible compliment would be to say that there were moments when the music seemed to be playing itself, re-

animated once more by Evans' unique spirit. All the trademarks of colour and texture were given full value: the weightless woodwind combinations, the calm French horns, the quick stabs of muted brass, the daring use of unison tuba and double bass as a combined lead voice.

And in the impossible role of Davis himself, the veteran American trumpeter Randy Brecker gave a skilled and generous interpretation – a little more prone to displays of virtuosity and self-conscious bluesiness than Davis himself, perhaps, but if this music were about exact imitation then it would have no value. A labour of love then, and received in kind.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

RICHARD WILLIAMS

PETER CONCHIE ON TV

The director of last night's 'Modern Times' clearly wanted to be Ken Loach

John Eliot Gardiner conducts

BACH
CANTATAS

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Rod Stewart, cool? Well, almost...

POP
ROD STEWART
SECC
GLASGOW

I LAST saw Rod in the late Seventies, when I was 13 and he was at his most decadently naïf. Perma-tanned, clad in black satin and leopard skin, he belted out hits from the *Do You Think I'm Sexy?* album, wagging his bony bum to the audience. Even at that tender age, I knew never to mention that night I spent with Rod to new friends, vowing to take my dark secret to the grave.

And then, all of a sudden, Rod releases *When We Were The New Boys*, a covers album of quite cool tracks, and the hitherto savage music press wants to be best mates with him. In fact, Rod's recuperation

into the ranks of the mentionable began a while back, when he made the astute move of covering Tom Waits songs rather than Tom Jones numbers. The old rocker we'd all thought would turn into Peter Stringfellow but with songs, surprised us by turning instead into a respectable option for a night out.

Rod chose Glasgow to begin this comeback tour. He is Glasgow's favourite adopted son and they welcomed him with every tartan accessory imaginable, Celtic team strips, Scottish flags and an atmosphere like the best Hogmanay party. He didn't let them down.

This mix, when held together by a voice as good as Rod's and tracks as strong as his best, is unbeatable. The difference these days is that it's the voice that's the star, not the glitzy outfits, cheesy bands or heaven help us, his arse (although there's a smattering of all three). The best moments are the most pared down – the running together of the Tom Waits song, "Waltzing Matilda" and "I Don't Want to Talk About It" – and the most rocked up, like "Stay With Me". "Maggie May" and, unlikely though it sounds, "Do You Think I'm Sexy?" given the camp, ironic treatment it's long cried out for.

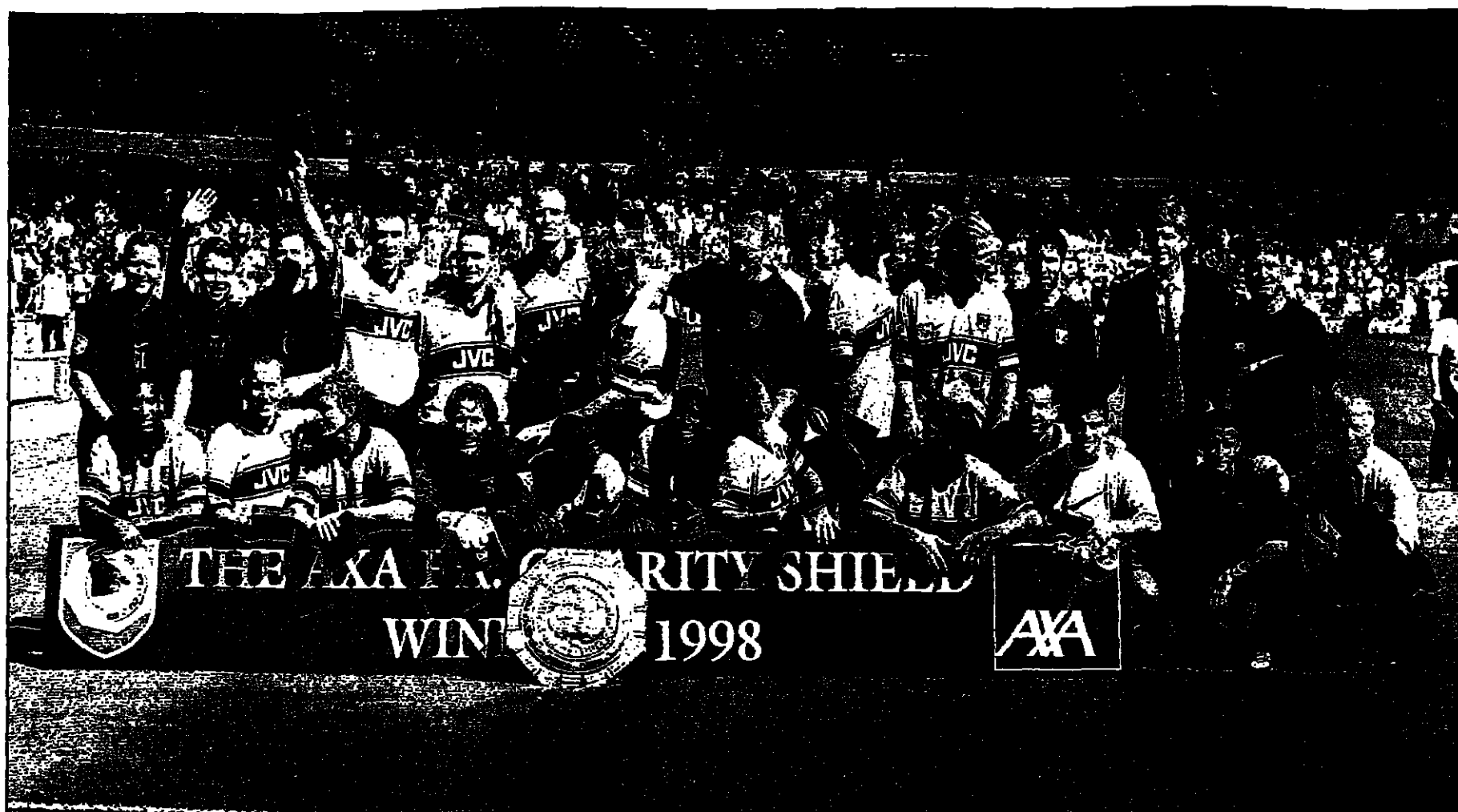


Dear old Rod: no stranger to self-parody

But let's not get carried away. The band still delivers muscular, rockastic workouts. Rod's outfits still veer towards

the comical (who else could sing love songs in a pork-pie hat, red-and-white polka-dot shirt, black spangly trousers and yellow socks?) and he has no idea what to do when he's not singing – he has someone feeding him footballs to kick out to the crowd during the instrumental bits. And on the first night of the tour, he's clearly nervous. "Well, it's the home crowd," he explains, to yet another roar of Glaswegian approval. For once, Rod has nothing to be nervous about; his new-found respectability is both long overdue and well deserved. He wears it rather well.

ELISABETH MAHONEY

Out of loyalty to teams such as Arsenal, supporters may be induced to buy pensions, insurance and other products recommended by the company *Daily Mirror*

A pitch for the fans

We buy the scarf, the shirt and the bobble hat in support of our favourite football team – so why not choose the financial services they recommend? By Alison Steed

For many of us, football is a religion. We attend our team's weekend and weekday "services" with fanatical regularity.

Stuart Biddle, professor of exercise and sports psychology at Loughborough University, explains the phenomenon: "People (have) a tribe mentality. They like to identify with a team, or an area, a region, a town, and sport is a good way of doing that, particularly if the side is successful. It gives people a sense of belonging, a social identity."

As part of our support, we buy our team's football shirts, scarves, mugs, bobble hats and other paraphernalia. But this, it appears, is not enough. Financial services firms, and the clubs themselves, want more. They want us to purchase everything – pensions, insurance, credit cards, savings accounts – from their nominated companies.

Leeds United is one of the latest teams to cosy up to an insurance company. It recently joined forces with Allied Dunbar to offer a full range of financial services to 100,000 fans in the UK. Its affinity products have so far generated £250,000 in profit this year. Part of the deal involves perks, such as free match tickets, to fans who discuss financial products with club representatives.

Jeff Wagland, external affairs director at Allied Dunbar, says: "These products are things that Leeds fans

could get through Allied Dunbar advisers anyway, if they wanted to."

Allied Dunbar's Adaptable Pension Plan, sold through Leeds United, offers a facility to stop and start contributions at any time, plus disability waiver. Its charging structure is front-end-loaded, giving bad transfer and paid-up values at the beginning of the plan but above-average maturity values at the end.

Charles Levett-Scrivenor, product services director of Towry Law, a firm of independent financial advisers, says: "Normally that is looked upon as a bad thing. I would suspect with football fans that it is."

"We did this survey earlier in the year. At the end of year one, Allied Dunbar's transfer value, based on £100 per month contributions, was £371, compared to the average of £371. Standard Life offered £1,090, and Scottish Mutual £1,122. At five years, Allied Dunbar's would be £5,270, the average would be £5,845, and Standard Life would be £8,440."

Paid-up values follow a similar pattern, and no free switches between funds are offered.

The club is working as an appointed representative for the life company, so there is no product option, but the allegation that fans get a bad deal is refuted.

Adam Pearson, commercial director of Leeds United, says: "To say that affinity (products) give you incentives from the club, and help the club but give the fan a poorer rate,

is totally wrong... Supporters are not daft; if the deal is not right they will not purchase it."

Tony Tierney, managing director of Rangers Financial Services, agrees. "There may be a warmer reception from the fans, as there is an affinity for the club. But they still have to be satisfied that what is being presented to them is something that they want to have."

In both cases, the club uses money from its financial services business to boost the playing team. There is no denying, however, that interest rates on some associated

savings accounts are lower than on comparable accounts elsewhere. Egg, for example, is offering 8 per cent gross on an instant-access account.

The highest value for a football-related savings account, the Derby County account with Bank of Scotland, pays 6.5 per cent gross. The lowest is only 2.4 per cent gross through the Coventry City account with Market Harborough.

Warren Perry, senior investment manager of Whitechurch Securities, another financial advice firm, says: "Newcastle offer financial ser-

vices products, and they have got such a phenomenal following, so loyal, that anything to do with the club is almost a 'need-to-have' product, as opposed to a 'want-to-have' product. [But] people do need to shop around."

Pensions is a main area of concern. Unlike building society accounts, pensions are difficult to compare. The other problem is that the margins are much higher in pensions. Allied Dunbar and Standard Life both offer pensions through clubs, and Legal & General is in talks with a number of clubs about offering its financial products, including pensions and Individual Savings Accounts from April next year.

Justin Mudray, investment adviser at Chase de Vere, says: "Think carefully before you take out a club product, and ask yourself whether you are compromising your investment, especially with a pension. It is a massive investment for the whole of your life. With a savings account, if you feel you are getting a bad deal, you can easily go elsewhere."

However, fans themselves appear to be happy with the situation, as long as it gives them a better team and better facilities. John Macmillan, general secretary of Glasgow Rangers Supporters Association, says: "If supporters want to do their homework and get some advice, then they may find that they get a better deal elsewhere. But it would be up to each individual to look at that."

SCORING BETTER INTEREST RATES		
Bank/building society	Football club	Rate (gross per annum)
Bank of Scotland	Derby County	4.5%-6.5%
Birmingham Midshires	Birmingham City	4.50%
Britannia	Ipswich	5.25%-6.25%
	Man Utd	
	Port Vale	
	Stoke	
Leeds and Holbeck	Leeds United	2.50%-5.25%
Market Harborough	Coventry City	2.40%-6.05%
Norwich & Peterborough	Norwich City	3.15%-5.45%
West Bromwich	West Bromwich Albion	4.25%-5.00%
Woolwich	Charlton Athletic	4.91%
Yorkshire Bosc	Huddersfield Town	3.00%-4.05%
Credit Cards		
Bank of Scotland	Arsenal	19.9% APR
	Norwich City	19.9% APR
Co-Op	Celtic	21.7% APR
MBNA	Liverpool	19.0% APR
RBS	Birmingham City	23.2% APR
	Rangers FC	

Source: Chase de Vere

Picking the perfect PEP

REDUCING TAX liability has to be one of the main aims for investors. Unfortunately, there are few options available these days. The two most popular are the Tessa and the "general" PEP, into which £5,000 can go each year.

However, until April 1999 you can also invest £3,000 into the single company PEP. I think this is a great idea, but is it suitable for many investors? This situation was highlighted a couple of days ago when Mr Melton called to discuss one.

"I am going to put Halifax shares in a single company PEP. What do you think?"

"Why have you chosen Halifax?" I asked.

Mr Melton responded: "It is a large, well known company, and has fallen a long way since its highest point early this year, so it must be a good buy."

"You must be careful selecting individual companies as the risk can be high, even with companies like Halifax that look safe," I replied. "First, you should read the latest annual report, and find out about Halifax's business plans. Then technical facts like the price/earnings ratio and the yield should be considered and compared with the rest of the sector. You should also consider analysts' forecasts, and compare the company with the financial sector as a whole, and try to ascertain whether or not Halifax is likely to outperform the market."

"Do I really need to take all that trouble?" asked Mr Melton.

I suggested that we look at this from a different angle. He owns a chain of greengrocers.

"Say you saw a shop for sale on the corner of your road and you wanted to invest in it. Would you not first ask a few questions?"

"Yes, I would want to know its annual profit and overheads, how many greengrocers are in the area, if any supermarkets are being built locally, and how loyal is the customer base."

"Exactly," I said, "and you should take the same amount of care when picking a company to invest in on the stockmarket."

Mr Melton agreed this was true and wondered why he had not thought about this before.

Utilising your single company PEP allowance is a good idea, but you must ensure it fits in with your overall investment strategy. He holds a number of shares which are a mixture of privatisations and windfalls.

"You must be careful picking individual shares because your experience with windfalls and privatisations is very positive," I stated. He agreed that they had done exceptionally well. In fact, they were some of the best investments he'd had.

"But," I countered, "privatisations were sold off cheaply with a view to them

THE FIXERS:



TIM COCKERILL

being successful from day one. As for the windfalls, you have not paid a penny for them. Things are different when you sit down and start from scratch picking squares; that is why we recommend unit trusts and investment trusts. Your investment is managed on a daily basis by a professional manager and is spread between many different companies."

"But you can't invest through these in a single company PEP," said Mr Melton.

I replied: "Technically this is true, but there are a number of products that get around this problem. To qualify as a holding within a single company PEP you must hold a UK company or a European company. Unit and investment trusts are excluded. One or two investment groups have launched companies that qualify as European companies, but operate in a way similar to unit and investment trusts."

"What you mean I that can use my single company PEP allowance and put the money into an investment that spreads my risk," said Mr Melton.

"Yes," I replied. "I like the HSBC Triple Allowance single company PEP. This invests in the UK, US, Europe and Japan, tracking their indices."

The following day I wrote a letter to Mr Melton outlining the basics of our conversation and explaining the HSBC Triple Allowance PEP in more detail.

This particular single company PEP fits Mr Melton's circumstances well. His overall portfolio of equities is worth £20,000, most of which is invested in unit trusts, and to invest £3,000 in a single share through a PEP would have been off-balance in relation to the rest of his portfolio.

Mr Melton decided to go ahead with his single company PEP investment in HSBC. He now wants me to look at his wife's circumstances: she liked the idea of investing in the Body Shop but is currently having second thoughts.

Tim Cockerill is managing director at Whitechurch Securities, independent financial advisers, 14 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8AE (0800 374413)

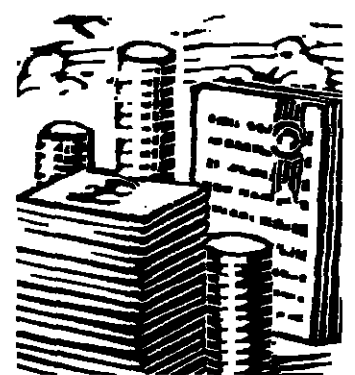
The day the bread bin ordered bunds

ISN'T it remarkable how quickly you can change from a Master of the Universe to a whimpering toddler? I should know. I've spent the past two weeks battling the worst flu I've ever had. By the time I was able to move from bed to the sofa, I felt like the scraps from a vampire's banquet and was probably about as interesting to talk to. All the more generous, then, of Laura to pop in every evening on her way back from work to see how I was getting on.

"Don't worry, you're doing me a favour, too," she said on the third visit. "Rory's dragged all the others off to some hideous brokers' Christmas party, but I used you as an excuse to escape."

And with that, we got down to chatting. Findlay, it seems, has found out about a fridge that can e-mail you at work to tell you when you're low on milk or orange juice or whatever.

"Anyway," said Laura, "he was going on and on about it, and how you could put it in your kitchen cupboards as well. And then we realised that's what must have happened to that trader the other week, the one who did or didn't lose £10m. He's obviously testing a prototype. His bread bin sent him an e-mail saying, 'Buy



THE TRADER

buns!" and he misread it and bought bunds instead."

The following evening, Laura turned up again clutching a box of chocolates and a copy of the new trading system manual.

"I thought you might want to have a look at our great masterpiece," she said. "It looks great, doesn't it?"

So we found ourselves laughing about all the work we'd put into it, and how awful the trading system had been before we got it sorted out.

"Do you remember?" said Laura. "It had so many holes in it, we were thinking of gathering them all together into

one big hole and offering it to the Jubilee Line. I wish you weren't ill; it's boring without you." Then she went home.

The next day a vast bouquet of roses and lilies arrived for me. Suddenly I felt a million times better, so when Laura rang to say she couldn't make it that evening, I didn't mind.

"I'll lie on the sofa and gaze at that amazing bouquet you all sent me. Did you choose it?" I asked. There was a pause.

"Choose it?" said Laura. "I didn't even know about it. I expect Rory sorted it out."

And we agreed that that must have been what happened, and Laura went back to her number-crunching. Later on, the doorbell rang. It couldn't be Laura, so it was almost bound to be Jehovah's Witnesses. But the voice over the intercom was a familiar one: "Hello Miss Invald. Can I come in?"

I felt my heart skip a beat. What was Jaap doing here? And why was I so pleased to see him? As he walked into the flat he spotted the flowers and smiled.

"Do you like them?" he said. "I chose them specially."

I felt my knees go weak. But of course they would, I told myself. That's what happens when you have flu.

Size is not everything

Mergers are not the only route to survival in the accounting field. By Roger Trapp

THE CONSOLIDATION at the top of the accounting market is generally reckoned to have put the squeeze on firms nestling just below what are now the Big Five – to such an extent that another round of mergers is seen to be inevitable.

However, while some of these so-called second-tier practices are known to be exploring such deals, Pannell Kerr Forster is adamant that they do not represent the only route to survival. While not ruling out a link-up all together, Martin Goodchild, the recently appointed managing partner, points out that in this area "marrying cultures becomes very difficult". In particular, he says, such a deal "has got to make commercial sense, rather than just mean getting bigger".

This "size is not everything" attitude carries through into his strategy for the Hutton Garden-based firm. Explaining why he is pleased to have reported fee income for the year to 30 April marginally ahead of the last 12 months, at £74.4m, Mr Goodchild says: "We've concentrated on growing profit rather than turnover. There's no point in growing revenues if you're not making money."

Quite. But Mr Goodchild and his team have achieved in the past year only a negligible improvement in net profit, from £15.7m to £15.9m. The rise is more dramatic when it



Martin Goodchild, managing partner of Pannell Kerr Forster

is put in terms of average profit per partner – £126,000 against £112,000 last time round – because the number of partners has been reduced from 140 to 126.

To some extent, Mr Goodchild is right when he says that increasing partners' earnings in this way is an important basis for future growth. After all, nothing makes partners more disgruntled than the perception that they are falling behind in the pay league.

And, as one or two other middle-market firms have found, once such people start to vote with their feet

the organisation as a whole is on the slippery slope. Stressing that some partners have been with the firm for decades, he says that "partner loyalty is very good".

But whether Mr Goodchild has come up with a sustainable strategy for remaining an independent force depends just as much on his other policy – restructuring the firm to "meet future challenges".

This has already seen such moves as the disposal of the Aberdeen practice and the Worcester practice's insolvency arm – which means that growth on a like-for-like

basis is in fact stronger than the headline figures indicate, he adds.

One area that will remain crucial is that of hotels and leisure, where the firm has a longstanding expertise that it is now using to diversify into buying and selling hotels. It also claims to be the only middle-market firm that can compete with the Big Five in developing software – and has sold programmes to organisations as diverse as the Lloyd's of London insurance market and the Kennel Club.

But whatever area it is operating in, the firm is determined to come across as entrepreneurial. Mr Goodchild's own career certainly bears out that policy since he was for some time closely involved with the development of Sanctuary, a Stock Exchange-listed entertainment business that is perhaps best known for managing the heavy metal rock group Iron Maiden.

"It's part of our entrepreneurial culture," explains Mr Goodchild, on the firm's policy of encouraging such links. "It gives an insight into what a real business is doing."

Consequently, he argues, it gives the firm greater credibility when seeking to advise clients that might have started small but are looking to expand internationally.

"They want a personal service from experts who understand their business," he says.

the
PEP
E FIXERS
TIM
CKERILL

How I got my future all mapped out

I WORK FOR ...

DAISY EVANS WORKS FOR NICOLAS RABIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ETAK, THE DIGITAL MAPPING COMPANY

Last year when I came back from Japan, where I had been teaching English for two years, I decided to apply for jobs within the business sphere because I wanted to learn how global business functioned. Feeling that information technology was the way forward in the business world, I narrowed my choice down to companies specialising in developing technological communications, although it was an area I knew little about. However, rather than retraining via a course, I decided to pick up skills on the job.

When I saw an advert for an assistant at a digital mapping company it took my fancy, and I applied for the position even though the company was asking for someone with two years' experience in a technology company. I had seen digital mapping applied to in-car navigation systems in Japan, and was curious to know more about how these devices worked, how they were being marketed and who was using them. The thought of being part of a company developing a geographic information system fascinated me.

At the interview Nicolas, my boss-to-be, seemed a little scary because he was the very image of a professional manager. I was intrigued to discover that he was actually the same age as me, which set me thinking about how professionalism is really an aspect of someone's character, rather than a mask adopted for the sake of it. I warmed to Nicolas when he emphasised that he was looking for someone with the right attitude as well as integrity, curiosity and enthusiasm - rather than just skills.



'I'm not a conventional PA, but that's because Nicolas has a progressive approach,' says Daisy of her boss Nicola Kurtz

I told him that I was interested in the Internet and Web-based applications, so when we began developing our Intranet site, shortly after I arrived, I was given the chance to get involved in building it up. As the project developed, so did my understanding of an area of the application of data in computerised form. It also made my colleagues' work more accessible to me rather than shrouded in mystery. But it was only once I was given a demonstration of a personal navigation system, in the form of a lap-top sitting beside me on a car journey, that I saw how the pieces of the puzzle fitted together. It was amazing to be able to watch the real environment through which we were travelling reflected on the screen, while a satellite positioning

signal tracked our movements. Meanwhile, the system was planning the most efficient route for us, telling us when to turn left and right and keeping us out of heavy traffic. Ironically, I am not a big believer

relationship, but I think that there is a very good level of trust between us. It amuses me that the stereotypical boss is seen as creative and disorganised, needing a PA to tidy up after him or her. The fact is that

I guess I am not really the conventional PA, but I think that's partly because Nicolas has a progressive approach towards his employees. He's not stuffy; instead he's encouraging and never puts people

of my colleagues here really impresses me. With only 25 of us here, the office is small enough to have a family feeling. People aren't scared of telling jokes and interrupting each other and, since it's a young company, we all enjoy socialising together, which gives an additional energy to the working environment.

I feel quite a lot of freedom through my job, because it has helped to focus me and enhanced my self-discipline. As the business expands, I look forward to becoming more involved with it. But already I get a sense of satisfaction from having made a contribution, however small, to the information revolution.

At the interview Nicolas, my boss-to-be, seemed a little scary - so I was intrigued to discover that he was actually the same age as me

er in the car and prefer to travel on a bike - a very low-tech form of transport. But any form of technology that enhances traffic flow will also improve the life of other road users, and it seems absurd that the average frequent driver loses five working days a year waiting in traffic.

Nicolas and I have quite a subtle

Nicolas is highly efficient and very good at delegating, which makes my role more that of a team-worker than a PA. Of course, part of my job is to keep everyone up to date with Nicolas's agenda, but I don't work exclusively for him - and he certainly doesn't ask me to organise his personal life.

down, which means that his staff aren't bashful. It's a very different philosophy from the Japanese company I once worked for, where the management were so frightened of people slaving off and abusing the system that it actually caused the employees to misbehave in rebellion. The dedication

Catching the habit



THE TEMP

THERE IS more to Graham than meets the eye. Through my haze of exhaustion it begins to register that it's not just that he has no sense of humour, and it's not just that he needs to be seen to be giving dictation. There is something seriously wrong beneath the suit.

I should have spotted it immediately, given that his first move after shaking my hand was to take a Wet One from the mega-pot in the shadow of the box files and wipe down his palm with it before dropping it, two-fingered, into the bin. I'm so used to odd reactions from new bosses that I just thought it was a new, imaginative way of making me feel unwelcome. It wasn't until I'd watched him surreptitiously do the same thing to three clients in a row that I started realising that this was a psychosis, not merely a weird way of pulling rank.

Graham, it seems, is terrified of germs. Now, we're all a little nervous of what we can pick up in offices. They're not hygienic places, especially with air-conditioning carrying every cold virus breathed out by someone in the lift to every desk on the 15th floor. I mean, if the Queen can have legionnaire's disease in the ventilation system at Buck House, what hope is there for her subjects? What with people's habit of nuzzling pens and then putting them in their mouths, it's surprising that any of us is still alive.

But that doesn't explain why Graham's Wet Ones are not, in fact, as I discovered when hunting through the box files for a copy of last month's board meeting minutes, Wet Ones at all, but a mega-box of sterile wipes. He uses them constantly. First thing in the morning, first thing after lunch and last thing at night, Graham wipes down his entire desk with a wad, paying special attention to the crevices around the drawer handles. Graham is the Michael Jackson of merchant banking.

And it's not just that. He uses them for wiping down pens, pencils, staplers, the keyboard of his computer, his fingers after he's handled a piece of paper. Once a week, a dignified young woman in an apron and rubber gloves, who doesn't seem to speak a word of English apart from "Good morning", comes round the office with a squirly bottle of something vaguely pine-scented and some J-cloths, and wipes over the earphones and

mouthpieces of the telephones. I find this vaguely comforting. I don't know if you've ever looked at the little holes on a telephone mouthpiece, but it's quite a disturbing sight: slightly mushroomy, slightly cheesy. It's nice that someone is cleaning the fungi out before they get us. Graham, however, isn't content with this. When she's there, he shrinks back from his desk. When she's gone, he gets out his wipes and carefully covers every square centimetre that she's already been over. And as he does it, his Adam's apple bobs as though he's trying to stop himself being sick.

The thing is, the habit is catching. I'd never looked at my environment in such detail before, or thought about where everything might have been. The pub must occasionally pass Health and Safety inspections. I guess, but I suddenly find myself washing my hands each time one of my builder clients emerges from the loo and hands me his glass for refilling, and I have to stop myself from doing the same after handling change. In the office, following Graham's lead, I have started checking coffee-cups as they emerge from the machine in case some foreign body has attached itself to the outside.

Not that my boss has noticed. In fact, he regards me as unclean enough to go well beyond the call of duty. This morning, he arrived on tiptoe, and his skin was positively green. "Good morning, Graham," I said. He didn't answer; he seemed to be concentrating on standing on one foot, while undoing the laces on the other with the tip of a paper knife. Then he slipped it off and waved it, sole first, at me. So I saw what was on the bottom. "Oh," I said, eyeing it. Strangled syllables emerged from the very front of Graham's mouth, as though he was afraid to open his airways too wide. "Can you," he said, "deal with this?"

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Legal Notices

No. 00687 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF WOOD & WOOD INTERNATIONAL SIGNS LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the High Court at 11, Old Bailey, London EC4A 3DF, on Wednesday the 16th December 1998, at 10.30 am, for the confirmation of the winding up of the above-named company.

Any creditor or shareholder of the company desiring to appear at the winding up should apply to the Registrar of the High Court at the above address for the particulars of the winding up.

Dated this 9th day of December 1998.

47 Galle Street, Reading RG1 7SR
Solicitors to the Company

No. 006176 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF GAINSBOROUGH STUD MANAGEMENT LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 25th November 1998, confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named company from £50,000,000 to £16,004,729 and the Minutes approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Order, were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 20th November 1998.

Dated 9th December 1998

Amberlin Tite & Lewis
32 Farringdon Street
London EC4A 3DF
Tel: 020 7411 1111
Fax: 020 7411 1111
Solicitors for the Company

Legal Notices

CONRAN ROACHE LIMITED
(Company No. 2374858) ("the Company") whose registered office is at 22, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 7NY has today approved by Special Resolution under Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase. The amount of the permissible capital payment (as defined in Section 173(3) of the Act) for the shares in question is £750,000. The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by Section 173 of the Act are available for inspection at the Company's registered office.

Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the said Special Resolution or apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the said payment out of capital.

Dated 2nd December 1998

COURTNEY LANDSCAPES LIMITED

The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF, on Wednesday the 23rd day of December 1998 at 12.00 noon, for the purpose mentioned in Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Provision is also made for the holding of a meeting of the creditors of the company at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the said Special Resolution or apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting the said payment out of capital.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1998

ADDLESHAW BOOTH & CO.,
100 Balfour Street,
Manchester, M2 3AB.
Solicitors.

CHARLES RUSSELL
8-10 New Fetter Lane,
London, EC4A 3DF.
Solicitors.

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House,
Finsbury Place,
London, EC2V 6HG.
Parliamentary Agents.

Legal Notices

RUSHMORE REED LIMITED

Registered No. 0138742, Trading as Other Names: Rushmore Reed Limited, Administrative Receiver: Maurice Raymond Donaghy FRSA of PricewaterhouseCoopers, 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF. Date of appointment: 1st December 1998. By Whom Appointed: Supervisor & Administrator: Fazzini Limited, Date of Mortgage Deed: 14th May 1998. Assets Secured: The whole of the assets of the company.

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NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

Director: George Miller
Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell, EG Daily
The follow-up to 1995's *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNUSA (PG)

Director: Pat O'Connor
Starring: Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke
Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore
Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his job-like existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.
West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

ON CONNAIL LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais
Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema
Love him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* director Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

RUSH HOUR (15)

Director: Brett Ratner
Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson
Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (*Money Talks* Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Eastern and Western on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalinised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton
Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman
Twilight reunites Newman with his *Nobody's Fool* collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gunshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely.
West End: Plaza

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jarmusch
Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse
Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.



Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's seamy, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic tabach.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

The Fountainhead (PG; Curzon Soho)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love

Theatre Royal, Haymarket
A witty, heart-breaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend. To 24 Apr

Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent (all two of them, below). Very funny and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Angela Carter's Cinderella

Lynic Hammersmith
A feast of inspired silliness and visual magic from Neil Bartlett and Improbable Theatre. To 9 Jan

Arabian Nights

Young Vic
A ravishingly conceived magic carpet ride in the Young Vic's incomparable tradition of Christmas shows. To 23 Jan

Kafka's Dick Piccadilly Theatre

Spriting Kafka to suburban England, this hilarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival. To 27 Jan

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Mirror Image National Gallery

A magpie's delight, Jonathan Miller curates a show of mirrors and shiny surfaces in painting, with virtuoso reflections from Van Eyck's *Annoyance* portrait to Helen Chadwick's *Unions*. To 13 Dec

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery

Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley Abbott Hall, Kendal

A retrospective of work by Bridget Riley (right) work from her early Sixties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as *King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid*. To 17 Jan

Chris Offili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

Turner Prize winner Offili is an upstart original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, auras and black lines, and incorporating balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870 9020418) @ Baker Street
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE

(0870 9020402) @ Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road
Slums of Beverly Hills 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870 9020403) @ Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus
Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm
The Government 1.45pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Antz 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Negotiator 3.40pm, 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-538 8891) @ Barbican
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm
Out of Sight 6.15pm, 8.45pm
The Negotiator 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
On Connail La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common
Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.30pm, 9.15pm
Out of Sight 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Victory 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Dancing At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
The Elephant & Castle Coronet 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm, 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm, 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 0403) @ Notting Hill Gate
It's A Wonderful Life 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
Babe: Pig In The City 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
The Negotiator 8.40pm, 11.10pm, 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm, 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is populated by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatcher Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Jude Law plays a vampire who wines and dines his victims. An attempt to give an adult twist to a genre that's principally an adolescent enthusiasm. West End: ABC Panton Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House

METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square
Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm
Dead Man's Curve 6pm
German Film Festival phone for details

CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner
Knightsbridge
Left Luggage 2.50pm, 5.50pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870 050007) @ Camden Town
Antz 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Negotiator 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm
Out of Sight 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.35pm
Ronin 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.35pm
Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870 050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870 050007) @ High Street
Kensington
Antz 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.50pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
Blade 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
The Negotiator 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
Out of Sight 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
Ronin 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
Rush Hour 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square
Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870 050007) @ Marble Arch
Babe: Pig In The City 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm
The Negotiator 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm
Out of Sight 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm
Ronin 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm
Rush Hour 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.00pm
If Only 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm
Snake Eyes 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870 050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.35pm
Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.35pm
Out of Sight 1.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Ronin 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm

ODEON WEST END

(0870 050007) @ Leicester Square
Les Misérables 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Ronin 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(494 4153) @ Piccadilly Circus
Across the Sea of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) 12.45pm, 5.05pm
Everest 3pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm
Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly
Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm
The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm, 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
On Connail La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
The Knowledge of Healing 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) BR @ Brixton
Antz 7.35pm
Buffalo 66 2pm, 7pm
Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
My Name is Joe 2.10pm, 4.50pm
My Name is Joe 2.10pm, 4.50pm
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 12.00pm, 3.40pm, 7.20pm
Out of Sight 2.55pm, 8.30pm
Rush Hour 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-535 2772) @ Baker Street
Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
Out of Sight 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) @ Highbury
Islington
My Name is Joe 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park
Dancing At Lughnasa 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0990-888990) @ Queensway
Antz 2.50pm, 4.50pm
Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Blade 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
The Negotiator 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Out of Sight 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Primary Colors 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Ronin 6.50pm, 9.20pm
Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA

(0870-9070710) @ Sloane Square/South Kensington
Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm
Ronin 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

(0870-9070711) @ South Kensington
Babe: Pig In The City 1.1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
The Negotiator 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.50pm
A Perfect Murder 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Ronin 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
There's Something About Mary 2.15pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET

(0870-9070712) @ Piccadilly
Circus Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO

(0870-9070716) @ Piccadilly
Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
The Negotiator 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Out of Sight 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Ronin 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO WEST END

(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square
Blade 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Blade 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
The Negotiator 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Out of Sight 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Ronin 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm
Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

WARRNER VILLAGE

(0181-880 8090) BR @ Croydon
Circus Antz 1.40pm, 3.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
Blade

ILFORD

ODEON (08705-050007) @ Gants Hill Antz 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.15pm
Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
Blade 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Rush Hour 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
KILBURN
TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) @ Kilburn Dancing At Loughness 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON

ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Antz 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.10pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

MUSWELL HILL

ODEON (08705-050007) @ Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Blade 2.40pm, 5.00pm, 8.25pm
Rush Hour 2.40pm, 5.00pm, 8.25pm

PECKHAM

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Antz 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm
Blade 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm
Elizabeth 7pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm
Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

PUTNEY

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Putney Antz 5.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 5.55pm, 8.30pm
The Negotiator 2.15pm, 8.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

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ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Blade 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 8.35pm

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) @ Willesden Green The Export (25th Anniversary Release) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimbledon Antz 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 1.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Rush Hour 1.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WOOD GREEN

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) @ Turnpike Lane Kuch Hotz 1.30pm, 8.30pm
Hal Spm Meland 1.30pm, 8.30pm

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) @ South Woodford Antz 2.25pm, 5.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.20pm, 8.10pm
Rush Hour 1.10pm, 8.10pm
Small Soldiers 5pm

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Antz 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 8.30pm
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

LONDON

CINEMA LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW1 (0171-639 2144/2146) @ Queensberry Place: Five Gay Tales From France (18) 7.30pm

LONDON

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Conversation (15) 5pm, 7pm
Bernie 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Des Scholss 9.15pm

LONDON

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Land Girls (12) 2.30pm
Way Out West & The Music Box (U) 6.15pm
Flat Of Fury (aka The Cat) 8.30pm
The Negotiator: Bruce Lee (18) 6.30pm
Nautical Aviation: Museum Special Event 7.30pm
The Philadelphia Story (U) 8.30pm
Way Of The Dragon (aka Return Of The Dragon): Bruce Lee 8.45pm

LONDON

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) It's A Wonderful Life (U) 1.55pm & Short Leaf Luggage (PG) 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

LONDON

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Leon (18) double bill (7.15pm & 9.30pm) @ Prince Charles Leicester Place (18) 6pm
Scarface (1983 version) (18) 8.40pm

LONDON

ROKINGDALE High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) The Land Girls (12) 2.30pm
Yara 6.45pm
Mira Ma Non Troppo (Nithavend Muckez) 9pm

LONDON

REVEREND STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Stranger Than Paradise (15) 6.45pm & Dead Man (18) 8.40pm

LONDON

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street (0181-568 1176) Left Luggage (PG) 5pm
Drowning Jack (15) 7pm
Spill Salt Crazy (15) 9pm

LONDON

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503) The Story Of The Late Chrysanthemums (Zangiku Monogatari) 1.55pm
The Parent Trap (PG) 1.15pm
The Parent Trap (PG) 1.15pm, 6.30pm

LONDON

BRISTOL CUBE (0114-907 4191) Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas (18) 7pm
The Export (25th Anniversary Release) (18) 9.30pm

LONDON

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) My Name Is Joe (15) 6pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges (18) 6.05pm
Speak Like A Child 8.20pm

LONDON

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Henry Fool (18) 2.30pm, 8pm
Dance Of The Wind (U) 7.30pm

LONDON

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 Topless Women Talk About Their Lives (NC) 6pm, 8.15pm
Funny Games (18) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

LONDON

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) My Name Is Joe (15) 5.45pm

LONDON

EASTBOURNE CURZON (01323-731441) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Out of Sight (15) Rush Hour (15)

LONDON

VIRGIN (0541-555159) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Lost In Space (PG) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) Washington Square (PG)

LONDON

LOWLOW ODEON (08705-050007) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG)

LONDON

CINEMA (0870-902 7013) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Godzilla (PG) Lost In Space (PG) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Paula (U) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG)

LONDON

PORTSMOUTH ABC (01705-823538) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Out of Sight (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

ODEON (08705-050007) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Dr. Dolittle (PG) Godzilla (PG) It's A Wonderful Life (U) Lost In Space (PG) Mulan (U) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15)

LONDON

ODEON (08705-050007) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Dr. Dolittle (PG) Elizabeth (15) The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18) Freeriders (U) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682222) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682222) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682222) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682222) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

LONDON

WATFORD WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682222) Antz (PG) Babe: Pig In The City (U) Blade (18) Elizabeth (15) Mulan (U) The Negotiator (15) Out of Sight (15) The Parent Trap (PG) Ronin (15) Rush Hour (15) Small Soldiers (PG) There's Something About Mary (15)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices. ○ — Returns only. Madness — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

ALARM & EXCURSIONS

Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages starts Friday Evening at the Lyric Theatre, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

LES MISERABLES

Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece, Les Misérables, at the Lyric Theatre, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

MISS SAIGON

Musical which re-creates the Vietnam War, at the Lyric Theatre, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

THE MOUSETRAP

Agatha Christie's whodunit, at the Lyric Theatre, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, at the Lyric Theatre, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

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